

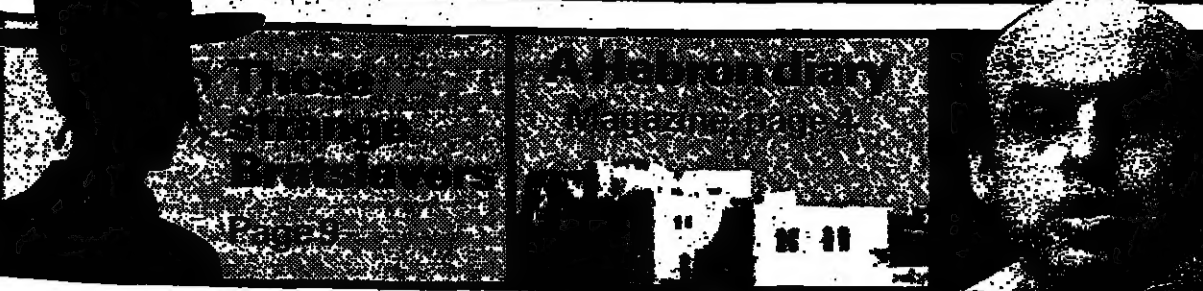
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# THE JERUSALEM POST

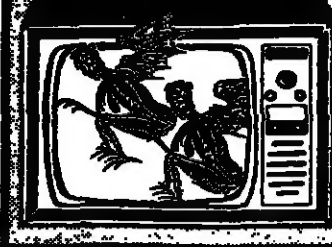
Vol. LTV, No. 16387 Friday, December 5, 1986 • Kislev 3, 5747 • Rabi'at Awal 4, 1407 NIS 1.40 (Eilat NIS 1.22)

**French student protests intensify**  
 Page 3



**Sharansky battles on**  
 Page 8

**Spice of life**  
 Magazine, page 10



**Pandora's Television Box**  
 Page 18

## Cairo, after foiling plot by zealots, is still worried

**Post Middle East Staff and Agencies**  
 Thirty-three Islamic Jihad extremists charged yesterday with plotting to overthrow the Egyptian government do not appear to have posed a serious threat to President Hosni Mubarak's five-year-old regime, according to analysts in Cairo and Israel.

But the fact that four of the 33 are military officers is cause for concern to the regime, one expert in Cairo observed. He noted that the late president Anwar Sadat was assassinated in 1981 by a small Islamic Jihad cell in the military.

Yesterday's indictment of the four officers, ranging in rank from first lieutenant to major, was the first indication of Jihad infiltration of the army since Sadat was gunned down, observers noted.

Other observers in Cairo said last night that "the wealth of detail contained in the official statement indicates the concern of the authorities at the threat posed by the plotters."

But according to an Israeli expert on Islamic fundamentalism, the threat must be seen in its long-term perspective.

"I want to join the thesis of a good friend of mine, the noted Egyptian historian, Abd-el Azim Ramadan, that in the year 2000 the same regime will prevail in Egypt," said Hebrew University Prof. Emmanuel Sivan.

He believes that fundamentalism as an Egyptian social movement peaked in 1981 or 1982. If the International Monetary Fund helps Egypt out of its present economic crisis —

## Two killed in clash at Bir Zeit

**By JOEL GREENBERG**  
 Jerusalem Post Reporter  
 BIR ZEIT. — Two Palestinian students were killed and 12 wounded yesterday at Bir Zeit University when IDF troops opened fire in one of the worst West Bank campus incidents since 1967.



Bir Zeit officials said yesterday that 15 students had been wounded in the clash. Military sources stated that the IDF would investigate the incident.

Under an agreement reached yesterday evening, students holed up inside the campus left the university and army troops left the area.

Bir Zeit has been a centre of nationalist student activism and the site of numerous demonstrations and clashes with Israeli troops. In November 1984, Bir Zeit student Sharaf Tibi was killed in a clash on the campus.

Police last night were searching for the bodies of the two dead students, after the corpses were spotted away from Ramallah government hospital, apparently by Bir Zeit students who wanted to prevent the army from holding the bodies.

The killings capped a day of violence at the university. At 8:30 a.m. students staged a sit-down strike at an army roadblock at a road leading to the university. The students were protesting against roadblocks set up in recent weeks at approaches to the university, which have prevented them from reaching the campus.

University professor Roger Heacock said troops arrived at the scene and, immediately after warning the demonstrators to disperse, fired tear-gas grenades at them from close range.

Palestinian eyewitnesses said university professor Salah Abdel Jawad, who stood up and called on students not to react violently, was

kicked, beaten and dragged to an army jeep, and subsequently arrested.

A military spokesman said yesterday Abdel Jawad had caused the disturbance by blocking the road to Bir Zeit, causing a crowd of some 200 persons to gather. The sources said students threw stones at troops.

According to Palestinian eyewitnesses, the demonstrators were then herded by troops towards Ramallah. Some eyewitnesses said the troops and students had clashed during the procession. There were further clashes between security forces and Arab youths when the students gathered at the home of the university president Gabi Baramki, and later at the office of the university's board of trustees.

## Profile of Amiram Nir

### Back from the shadows

**By HIRSH GOODMAN**  
 Amiram Nir, who has been forced out of the shadows into the limelight by the Iranian arms affair, cannot be happy with the change.

For two years the prime minister's adviser on terror had fought hard to shed the celebrity he had enjoyed as one of Israel Television's top reporters and become a *bona fide* member of the intelligence community. Ironically, just as he was succeeding — despite all predictions to the contrary when he first took over his post — the questions surrounding his involvement in the Iranian imbroglio emerged to jeopardize his career.

Nir, whose familiarity with the defence establishment was limited to what he learned as a military correspondent and as a major in an armoured battalion, hardly seemed to match the stature of his predecessors Ariel Sharon, Aharon Yariv and Rafi Eitan.

Nor did he seem to possess any of the qualifications one would assume essential for coordinating Israel's war against terror, or for acting as the prime minister's chief liaison with the intensely private world of Israeli intelligence. His appointment was seen as a political payoff, with Shimon Peres settling a debt owed to Nir who, in 1977, had left TIV to join Peres's election campaign. Had Peres won, Nir would have been head of the prime minister's bureau.

From 1977 until he joined Peres's team in 1984, Nir worked as a research at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Opposition to the unorthodox appointment came mainly from the intelligence community. Senior executives in all branches of intelligence, usually closed-mouth, were uncharacteristically outspoken in expressing their disavowal, and did not mind at all when their comments found their way into print.

They considered Nir an outsider and an upstart, someone not to be



trusted with the country's most sensitive secrets. Moreover, they saw him as a symptom of the growing politicization of the civil service, and resented him for being placed at the top of the hierarchy, thus blocking the advancement of one of their own number.

Nir thus entered his post with little goodwill from those around him. Not only did he have to learn about the complicated world he was now dealing with, but he also had to fight intrigues against him. It was not easy for him to exert his authority over embittered and hardened veterans who, as they no doubt often reminded him, were fighting terrorists before Nir had learned how to drive.

But even his most severe critics of two years ago now grudgingly admit that he had totally underestimated Nir. Though many still do not like him — Nir is not known for his tact or good human relations — they acknowledge his "unexpected professionalism."

Within several months of entering the Prime Minister's Office, Nir proved himself an astute thinker with original and innovative ideas. He also displayed administrative talent.

(Continued on Page 19)

## Reagan supports aides who refuse to testify

**WASHINGTON.** — President Reagan said yesterday that he will allow his cabinet officers to decide for themselves whether to invoke the Fifth Amendment if they are called to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The President added that he has "not given any thought" to claiming executive privilege to prevent them from testifying about the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran and clandestine funding to the Contras.

Under executive privilege, advice given to the president is confidential. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects people from being forced to testify against themselves or in any other way surrendering "life, liberty or property" without due process of law.

Reagan defended the decision of two of his former aides to refuse to answer the intelligence committee's questions. They are former national security adviser John Poindexter and his aide, Col. Oliver North.

"It is not new or unusual — it's happened many times before," he said.

Earlier, the chairman of the senate intelligence panel said cabinet members will be called to testify and fill in gaps left by the failure of the two officials to tell what they know about the Iran-Contras connection.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said tentative arrangements had been made for an afternoon meeting between Reagan and congressional leaders to discuss the conduct of Capitol Hill investigations of the Iran-Contras affair.

Speakes yesterday announced his resignation to take a job in private business as the communications director of Merrill Lynch, the world largest brokerage firm.

Vice President George Bush, admitting that "clearly, mistakes were made" in the deal that sent U.S. arms to Iran and money to Nicaragua's Contras, said the administration was determined to bring the truth of the scandal to light and to "let the chips fall where they may."

Senators running the investigation said the failure of the two key figures to testify would not slow the probe or limit its findings. "North didn't do anything by himself," said Republican Senator David Durenberger, chairman of the intelligence panel.

"Everything he did in this entire career had to have a response. If we can get everybody at the other end of all those phone calls and plane trips, we can find out what went on."

In a related development, the CIA denied a report it had commingled profits from the Iran sales in the same account with funds for covert support for rebels in Afghanistan.

"The only funds related to the Iran programme that passed through agency hands were the \$12 million owed to the Pentagon for the arms," which was passed on to the Defence Department, a CIA spokesman said.



**Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes, who has been President Reagan's chief spokesman since 1981, resigned yesterday to take a position with the Merrill Lynch brokerage firm.** (Reuters telephoto)

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger lashed out yesterday at the entire strategy of trying to negotiate with Iran. He said President Reagan had received "very bad" advice.

"There aren't any moderate elements in Iran with whom we can deal," he said.

Weinberger, interviewed on ABC television in Brussels, said he was "horrified" when he learned last week that profits from the Iran arms sales had been diverted to the Contras in Nicaragua.

## Sharir bars extradition

## Nakash goes free

**By MENACHEM SHALEV**  
 Jerusalem Post Reporter  
 William Nakash, who was sentenced by a French court to life imprisonment for the 1983 murder of an Arab in Besancon, will walk out of Tel Mond prison a free man this morning.

Justice Minister Avraham Sharir announced yesterday that he had decided not to extradite Nakash, 25, to France. Sharir said that he was also reducing his efforts to pass the law that would have permitted Nakash's incarceration in Israel, after "certain elements had very successfully foiled the democratic process" by opposing the law.

Nakash is to be released because the state has no grounds for holding him once the extradition request has been turned down.

An uncharacteristically reticent Attorney-General Yosef Harish, who has described Nakash as "worthless trash" and spearheaded the opposition to Sharir's proposed law, said that "Sharir had used the powers vested in him by law and it is not for me to criticize him." He added, however, that Israel "as an enlightened nation, could not ignore its extradition agreements."

Other reactions to Sharir's decision were split along political lines: MK Eliezer Waldman (Tehiya) praised Sharir's "courage" and said that Nakash is "sure to live up to the trust put in him."

MK Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) said that Sharir's decision was "ugly and shameful and incomprehensible." Sarid told *The Jerusalem Post*, "Woe to the country that has Sharir as justice minister and Nakash as a citizen free to roam its streets. Nonetheless, I insist on believing that Sharir's motives were not corrupt."

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)



## Navy shells Sidon camps

Several Israeli Navy gunboats bombarded Palestinian positions in the Sidon area yesterday, the IDF said. According to reports from Lebanon the rockets also hit the Mieh Mieh and Ein Hweh refugee camps, where fighting between Shi'ites and the PLO was raging for the 11th day.

News Agency reports from Sidon

said three Palestinians were killed in the two-hour morning bombardment. Palestinian positions on hills overlooking the two camps were also reportedly hit.

IDF helicopters, gunboats and planes have hit the region several times in the past weeks. (See Lebanon, page 3)

## Maccabi off to fine start

**Post Sports Staff**  
 Mickey Berkowitz, Maccabi Tel Aviv's captain spearheaded the Israeli basketball champions to a convincing win over Zadar, the Yugoslav champions 99-83 at Yad Elyahu last night. (story, page 17)

To my beloved father  
**Alexander Finkelstein**  
**ON HIS 75th BIRTHDAY**  
 Best wishes, good health and happiness.  
 His only daughter Rachel and grandchildren  
 Irit and Liat.

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## The weather at major Swissair destinations

4.12.86

	MIN.	C	F	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	6	43	11	52
BRUSSELS	6	43	12	54
BUENOS AIRES	13	55	32	86
CHICAGO	3	38	2	30
COPENHAGEN	6	43	11	52
FRANKFURT	3	38	6	43
GENEVA	4	39	10	48
HELSINKI	3	38	4	39
HONGKONG	15	59	21	78
JOBABENBURG	16	61	27	81
LONDON	12	54	15	59
MADRID	4	39	10	48
MONTREAL	6	43	11	52
NEW YORK	11	52	13	56
OSLO	4	39	10	48
PARIS	4	39	10	48
RIO DE JANEIRO	23	73	53	84
SAO PAULO	19	66	50	79
STOCKHOLM	7	45	11	52
TOKYO	7	45	11	52
TORONTO	1	34	4	39
VIENNA	3	38	10	48
ZURICH	2	36	9	46

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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Jerusalem: 30 Jaffa St., 021222233  
Haifa: 2 Sea Road, 04384245  
Beersheba: 38 Ben Yehuda St., 0525292  
Cairo: Ben Gurion Airport, 01917121

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Clear.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	38	5-10	13
Golan	45	4-12	14
Nabatieh	43	6-19	19
Safad	46	4-8	10
Tiberias	57	9-18	19
Nazareth	57	7-16	18
Alula	44	4-18	19
Shomron	35	4-13	15
Tel Aviv	43	8-18	19
B-G Airport	43	5-17	19
Jericho	32	6-19	21
Gaza	37	8-18	19
Beersheba	36	5-16	18
Eilat	27	10-19	21

## ARRIVALS

Prof. Immar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and chairman of the Foundation for Conservative (Masorti) Judaism in Israel - and his wife Sally, for the Israel Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the seminary.

Mr. Philip Katz, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Oelbaum, Mrs. Lilian Oelbaum, from Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Luck-Hille, from England, Mr. Robert Arrow, chairman Board of Governors Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Mr. Morton Burnard, Ms. Jeannette Delany, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Field, Mrs. Marjorie Fossell, Mrs. Sidney Gaines, Mr. Donald Garner, Mrs. Rosal Green, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Goldenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Hank Green, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Glesberg, Ms. L. Macow, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Riel, Mr. Jonathan Rosen, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Sabat, Mrs. Rici Segel, Mr. Lionel Steinberg, Mr. Kent Swig, from U.S.A., all guests of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev to participate in the Ben-Gurion centennial celebrations.

## Soviet exit visa for refusenik

TEL AVIV (Itim). - Soviet authorities have decided to grant an exit visa to refusenik and Prisoner of Zion Yuri Tarnopolsky of Kharkov, in the Ukraine, the Public Council for Soviet Jewry learned yesterday. The council received a reliable report from Moscow to this effect.

Former French prime minister Pierre Mauroy interceded with the Kremlin personally on Tarnopolsky's behalf during a visit to Moscow in October. A book of poems by Tarnopolsky, published recently in Paris by people working for his release, mobilized French public support for his struggle.

(Continued from Page One)

He said that there were other "weighty" considerations, but declined to elaborate except to point out that Nakash's wife Rina would find it difficult to visit her husband in French jail.

In September, the Supreme Court declared Nakash "liable for extradition." The court rejected Nakash's claim that he should not be extradited because his crime had been "politically, nationally and racially motivated."

Nakash's attorney Roland Roth told The Post last night that his client had told him yesterday that if he had known "that the Jewish people would not understand my actions, I would never have committed the crime."

Nakash's wife was overjoyed last night to hear of her husband's impending release. She said that

## Jordan support for Arabs in Old City

Jordan has promised to provide "full assistance" to Arab families whose home were vandalized recently by Jewish extremists in Jerusalem's Old City, according to a report today in the East Jerusalem An-Nahar newspaper.

**Mitchell Cinema, Jerusalem**  
**CORRECTION**  
The film **FORBIDDEN** is being screened at 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday night and all week and not as stated in the advertisement in today's Magazine. 04740-05-124

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# Demand to abolish film censorship

By MARSHA POMERANTZ  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Eight organizations representing the playwrights, performing artists, film and theatre directors, stage designers and musicians of Israel yesterday issued a joint statement demanding the abolition of film and theatre censorship.

They condemned the censorship board's decision this week to ban Shmuel Hasfari's play *The Last Secular Jew*, two days before it was scheduled to open at the Cameri Theatre in Tel Aviv. The play is a satire portraying Israel - after the "next war" - as a Khomeini-style theocracy.

The banning decision "once again proves the urgent necessity to abolish censorship that operates under the Mandatory regulations, which have no place in an enlightened democracy," the statement said.

It was unacceptable, the statement continued, that "in a country proud of its legal system and the freedom of expression from which all politicians and journalists benefit, only the freedom of expression of theatre people is limited, and this by the decision of a committee appointed on a political party basis."

The statement concluded by calling on "all members of the Knesset, cabinet ministers and all those to whom freedom of expression is precious to begin a struggle for the abolition of this anachronistic institution called the Film and Theatre Censorship Board."

Several hundred performing artists are expected to attend a protest meeting at Tel Aviv's Tsavta Theatre on Sunday evening. According to playwright Moti Lerner (Kasner), who has been active in

the fight against censorship, theatre representatives will present their case to the censorship board before its next meeting, on Monday, when it will consider the Cameri Theatre's appeal of the ban.

The next stage will be a long-term political battle, Lerner said, if not to abolish the law, then to have it changed so that a judicial body instead of a politically-appointed committee makes the decisions.

The board banned the entire play - an extreme move which has only been taken once in the past - because it found extensive parts likely to offend the sensitivities of both religious and secular Israelis.

Two members of the board that met this week are recent appointments who have not yet been approved by the cabinet. Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein on Wednesday chal-

lenged the legality of any decision in which they were involved.

Asked about the new members' participation, board chairman Yehoshua Justman told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that he had been informed of the two appointments and therefore invited them to the meeting last week. "I don't check what the minister does," he said. "I assumed they had been approved."

Nominations are made by the interior minister and ratified by the cabinet.

Playwright Hasfari, who won first prize at the Acre fringe theatre festival before going on to do three other plays at established theatres, was raised as an Orthodox Jew, and wears a kippa. Much of his writing has dealt with religious observance and its connection with politics.

# 'Subaru murders' suspect gets short remand

By BRADLEY BURSTON  
For The Jerusalem Post

BEERSHEBA. - The man police suspect of carrying out a brutal, baffling series of attacks dubbed "the Subaru murders," was remanded in custody for another three days by the Ashkelon Magistrate's court yesterday.

The suspect, 28-year-old Mohammed Grenawi of the Beduin township of Rahat, was arrested in mid-November for the rape and murder of British volunteer Lucy Amos. He has two wives and 11 children.

The court yesterday allowed the suspect's name to be published.

Amos was last seen en route from the Arava to Kibbutz Dorot last Independence Day. Aware of prior attacks on hitch-hiking women, she rode buses for most of the way, evidently accepting a ride from a passing motorist only when she reached the road connecting the kibbutz to the highway.

Grenawi's arrest followed an Israel Television dramatization of the Amos slaying and of the earlier shootings of a German tourist and a woman soldier. Police sources have indicated that Grenawi was closely questioned in connection with all three incidents.

The decision to remand Grenawi for a short time was seen by his attorney, Suzy Shalev, as an encouraging development. The police have requested his continued detention in order to perform one remaining test, on the understanding that if the results are negative the suspect will be released next week.

Although the suspect appeared elated by the prospect of an early release, family members at the hearing expressed disappointment that he was being kept in custody, noting that he bore the marks of a recent beating administered by Jewish prisoners in the Ashkelon lock-up.

In an earlier hearing, Grenawi's attorney

clashed with police over the latter's request to put the suspect in a standard lineup.

The court was told that the driver of a truck had seen Amos get into a Subaru as he drove into the kibbutz. After the truck passed by, the Subaru apparently veered into a grove of trees, where Amos was raped and strangled. The police have not disclosed the name of the eyewitness.

Shalev was reluctant to have her client take part in a lineup. She noted that he had complied with police requests for blood and semen tests and had answered all the investigators' questions. She said that his car was a different model and colour from the Subaru said to have been seen by the truck driver.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that an identification test was subsequently conducted at the place near the kibbutz where the Subaru had been seen, in accordance with Shalev's request, and that the witness was unable to identify Grenawi as the driver.

# Wreck found may be first of Phoenician ship

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A wreck that may be the first remains of a Phoenician ship ever found has been uncovered off the Mediterranean coast near Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael.

The wreck was spotted a year ago by a member of the kibbutz, but its possible Phoenician identity has only now been publicly announced by archaeologists.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* this week, underwater

archeologist Shelly Wachsmann of the Antiquities Department said that the vessel has been dated to the late 6th-early 5th century BCE on the basis of pottery found in the wreckage. "This is the period when the Phoenicians ruled the sea," he said. "Therefore, the possibility exists that the wreck may be Phoenician." No vessel from that great maritime culture has ever been found before.

No cargo was found but the archeologists identified parts of the

# Antibodies of Aids found in 10 blood units

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Post Science and Health Reporter

The practice of checking all donated blood in Israel for Aids has saved as many as 30 people from exposure to the deadly disease since April, the Health Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry's steering committee on Aids, headed by Prof. Moshe Mashiah, reported that 100,000 blood units have been checked so far. Of these, 10 were found to have Aids antibodies. All the blood donors involved were located and informed. Having antibodies to the virus does not mean that one has contracted the disease; but the 10 were asked to go to hospital for an examination and to have regular checkups.

According to Mashiah, 33 Israeli men have actually contracted the disease since Aids was discovered several years ago. Most were homosexuals, 10 were hemophiliacs, and one was a narcotics addict. Eighteen have died. The youngest person to get the disease was 17 and the oldest 52 - both of them are now dead.

All of them contracted the disease over a year ago. Most of them were believed to have contracted Aids abroad or from intimate contact with tourists in Israel.

In April, the ministry allocated \$1 million to set up seven centres to detect Aids around the country. They are open to anyone who wants his blood tested for antibodies to the virus, and no fee is charged.

The centres are located at Ramat, Ichilov, Beilinson, Sheba, Kaplan, Soroka and Hadassah hospitals. Since donated blood is separated into blood parts that go to an average of three recipients, the identification of Aids antibodies in 10 units means that 30 people were spared exposure. Care for each Aids patient costs the health system some \$250,000, Mashiah said.

The incidence of Aids is regarded as low in Israel, because of "conservative sexual and drug habits" and the testing of all donated blood, according to the World Health Organization.

The ministry has launched an intensive effort to get susceptible groups to get their blood tested. So far, only 800 people, mostly homosexuals, have done so.

# Vanunu relatives expected to visit him soon

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Relatives of Mordechai Vanunu are expected to visit him soon in prison for the first time.

Vanunu's attorney, Amnon Zichroni, who spent four hours with the former Dimona nuclear technician yesterday, said he would arrange the visit with Prison Service authorities in the next few days. Zichroni does not expect the authorities to block the visit by the family, who have not seen Vanunu since he

was brought back to Israel.

Yesterday, Zichroni discussed with Vanunu various aspects of his impending trial. Vanunu has been accused of treason and espionage for allegedly describing Israel's nuclear capacity to the *Sunday Times*. In about three weeks the Jerusalem District Court will consider the police request to hold Vanunu until the end of his trial.

Zichroni will probably fly to Britain again in the near future to prepare witnesses for the trial.

Zichroni is the only person whom Vanunu has been allowed to see in prison. Yesterday the Tel Aviv attorney took Vanunu six books including a volume of poetry and a collection of short stories by O. Henry.

Special arrangements have been made to safeguard the sensitive documents that will be presented as evidence in the Vanunu trial. At the end of each day, legal papers of the defence and the prosecution will be stored in a safe in Jerusalem.

# Situation in Arab schools critical, teachers warn

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Histadrut's Teachers' Union warned yesterday of a critical situation in the country's Arab schools and called on the Education Ministry to take immediate action.

In a statement, the union said the Arab sector is now short of at least 900 classrooms. Children are being forced to learn in basements, bomb shelters and similar structures, many without windows. Others are studying in schools that lack even the basic amenities.

One Beduin school near Shfaram,

with more than 300 children, has no water supply or toilet facilities, and has been condemned as dangerous.

The union's general secretary, Yitzhak Weiser, described the situation as "very serious."

He said that while he accepted the need for budgetary restrictions, there could be no holding back on funds for building classrooms in the Arab sector.

"We demand that the money be made available now," he said. A fuller report about Arab schools in Galilee will appear in *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday.

# Big step toward Aids serum

WASHINGTON (AP). - Scientists have taken what they think is an important step towards producing a vaccine against Aids. Showing for the first time that only a fragment of protein from the responsible virus is necessary for developing antibodies against it.

A team of industry, government and university researchers says the segment of viral protein spurs high levels of antibodies that neutralize the virus in test animals such as goats.

In addition, the researchers say they showed this protein can be inexpensively mass-produced in pure quantities using genetically engineered bacteria.

However, they cautioned, it remains to be proven whether the protein segment can produce sufficient neutralizing antibodies in humans to protect them against acquired immune deficiency syndrome. (See "antibodies," page 2)

DAY CARE. - Wizo day-care centres will operate normally today, but workers plan to resume sanctions on Sunday if wage negotiations are not under way by then.



David Balas in court in Tel Aviv with his wife Isabel. (IPPA/Yossi Aloni)

# Labour admits Balas gave money to 1984 election fund

Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. - The Labour Party admitted yesterday that financier David Balas had contributed funds to the Alignment's 1984 election campaign. It did not disclose how much money was involved, and insisted that Balas had made his contribution voluntarily as a private citizen.

Balas is now on trial for defrauding the United Kibbutz Movement (UKM) of \$29 million. His attorneys

have asked the attorney-general to investigate whether the UKM pressured Balas to donate some \$600,000 to Labour's campaign.

It is suspected that Balas received the money from the UKM or the Labour Party and then passed it back to Labour as a contribution. This has been denied by Labour.

The alleged ploy was to circumvent regulations that limit the amount of campaign money parties may draw from their own funds.

# Italy, Israel sign anti-terror accord

By YORAM GAZIT  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - Israel and Italy yesterday signed an agreement to cooperate in the war against terrorism and crime generally.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro signed the accord at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also attended the ceremony.

Bar-Lev and Scalfaro agreed on the establishment of a joint committee which will meet at least once a year to discuss ways of fighting terror, drug smuggling and organized crime. The two ministers will head the committee.

Under the agreement Israel and Italy will exchange information on terror organizations and on ways of improving security measures at airports, railway stations and other public places.

Scalfaro said he had refused to attend a signing ceremony at National Police Headquarters in East Jerusalem because of his country's foreign policy.

He told reporters that Italy had decided to sign a separate anti-terror agreement with Israel because the

efforts of the EEC countries to combat terror were ineffective. He emphasized that Italy neither recognizes nor has political relations with any terror organizations including the PLO.

Bar-Lev and Scalfaro agreed that under the accord their countries would combat terror, whatever its motives. Italy, Scalfaro said, does not differentiate between acts of terror committed in the name of national liberation and those committed for other ends.

The anti-crime clauses of the accord deal with, among other matters, efforts to combat the laundering of black money. The agreement also calls for the exchange of police experts and information.

Earlier yesterday Prime Minister Shamir met in his office with Scalfaro. The Italian minister told Shamir that he wished other EEC countries would sign anti-terror accords like the one he had signed with Israel. Shamir said he hoped that the agreement would encourage other EEC countries to cooperate in the war against terror.

In the morning, Scalfaro visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

# SLA finds arms cache

By DAVID RUDGE  
ROSH HANIKRA. - South

Lebanese Army forces this week discovered large quantities of weapons, including Katyusha rockets, during a raid on the village of Midoun north of the security zone in South Lebanon, SLA sources said yesterday.

Two suspected members of the extremist Shi'ite Hizbullah movement were killed in the operation.

The sources said the SLA troops, in tanks and armoured personnel carriers, came under heavy fire from mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and light arms as they entered the village early Wednesday morning.

Sporadic shooting continued as the SLA soldiers began a systematic search of houses suspected of having been used by the Hizbullah.

Two SLA troops were lightly

wounded, but were able to go on after receiving treatment on the spot.

The searches found a variety of weapons, including rifles, a large amount of ammunition, Sagger wire-guided anti-tank missiles and Katyusha rockets which had been hidden in buildings. The SLA troops demolished one house that had apparently been used as a Hizbullah command post.

The searches continued until late in the evening, when the soldiers returned to their positions inside the security zone.

The operation followed Tuesday's attacks on SLA strongholds on the northern border of the zone, near the village of Hazbiyah. Four SLA soldiers were killed and seven others wounded, one seriously, in the course of the battle.

We announce in great sorrow the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and sister

**FANNY WOLFF**  
(nee Kupferminz)  
who passed away in Paris, on December 2, 1986, at the age of 68.

Husband: Hans Wolff  
Son: Leopold Wolff and family  
Daughters: Rachel and Yolande and family  
Sister: Martha Bezbordoc and family  
Brother: Arthur Kupferminz and family

On the 5th anniversary of the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

**CELIA LAKS**  
we shall hold a *hizkrah* at Har Hamenuhot on Wednesday, December 10 (Kislev 8) at 3 p.m.

The Family

The unveiling of the tombstone on the thirtieth day after the passing of our dear

**ERNA GOLDSTEIN**  
will take place on Sunday, December 7, We will meet at the Ramat Hasharon cemetery (Morasha Junction) at 4 p.m.

Rudi Goldstein and family

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved sister

**SARA YELLIN**  
daughter of Alexander and Frieda Ziskind  
wife of Rabbi Shalom Shachne Yellin

The funeral procession will leave from the Sanhedria funeral home for Har Hamenuhot at 11:00 this morning.

Her sister Rifka Ziskind,  
Her brother Shalom Jacobson and family,  
Her brother-in-law Abraham Dinewitz and family.

Shiva at 20 Ibn Shaprut, Jerusalem

Our beloved

**Prof. EDMUND SILBERNER**  
will find his last resting place on Thursday, December 11, 1986 at 10:00 a.m. at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

Regina Silberner  
in the name of the family

**LOTTE (Liora) LEV**  
is no more.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, December 5, 1986, at 11 a.m. at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

A bus will leave from 1 Hatamim St., Tel Aviv at 10:30 a.m.

Please refrain from visits of condolence.

Roni Lev-Lifshitz

סלימא מן האוכל



# A million students protest in France

PARIS. — Students, estimated at between hundreds of thousands and one million, packed city streets on Thursday to demand that the conservative government cancel its university reform plan.

Organizers said about a million demonstrators filled the wide boulevards circling the capital on an eight-kilometre route from the Place de la Bastille in eastern Paris to the Invalides memorial near the National Assembly building on the left bank. Police said there were about 200,000. Many observers agreed on about 400,000 as a correct estimate. But there were certainly a million demonstrating throughout France yesterday.

"It's a bill that will create elite schools and garbage schools, a bit like the United States," said Cecile Girault, 19-year-old biology student from Dijon in eastern France.

Higher Education Minister Alain Devaquet, sponsor of the reform package, and his superior in the cabinet, Education Minister Rene Monory, said they would meet a delegation of student protesters after the rally. After last week's demonstration, the government called off a national assembly debate on the bill and sent it back to committee for amendments.

Devaquet says his proposal is intended to improve education by giving universities the right to increase fees by up to 400 francs (\$60) per year, to "orient" students to proposed courses of study, and to put the university's name on the standard national diploma awarded a graduating student.

Opponents of the measure call it an attack on equality in education. They say it will eliminate the current system in which high school graduates who pass the tough baccalaurat examination may attend any university and study any subjects they choose, winning a degree theoretically equivalent to that awarded at other schools.

The hundreds of thousands of students who converged on the streets of Paris came from all over France for the second week running to protest the proposed education reforms.

Fleets of coaches and 21 special trains, innumerable private cars, and the weary feet of one group which walked the 500 kms. from Grenoble brought the students to Paris.

Teachers, striking for the day, and parents joined the protest, while sympathy marchers set off in the country's main cities.

Student delegates elected on this day in a national ballot of students at France's 70 striking universities were due to meet the Minister of Education in the evening.

The student leaders had said they would accept nothing short of the withdrawal of the bill, and that the government's promised "clarification" was not enough.

The size of last Thursday's protest took Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's government by surprise, prompting Mr. Chirac to make a television appearance Sunday to try to reassure the students.

Inside the National Assembly yesterday afternoon, Socialist and Communist deputies demanded the withdrawal of the bill.

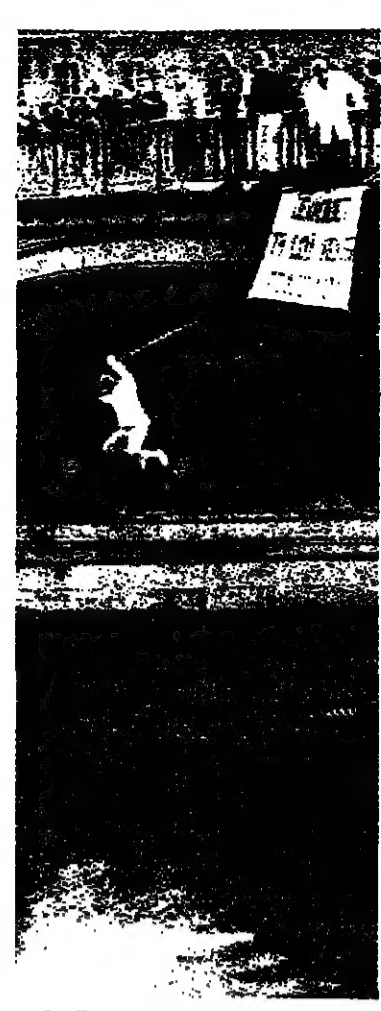
The cabinet is also believed to be strongly opposed to softening proposals on university selection. (AP, AFP)

Michel Zlotowsky adds: Jacques Chirac's government wished to reshape France with a more competitive university system. The specialists say that France badly needs twice as many students than there are today, in order to stay afloat. But the universities' budget does not allow such an influx. The existing faculties are overcrowded, the students are not properly advised or taught and close to fifty per cent drop out without finishing a B.A.

Last night, a delegation of the demonstrators was received by the ministers of education and of higher education. Their expectations were not met. The official message was clear: The government is ready to discuss matters with you in the coming days, but the reform bill will not be withdrawn.



Left: Thousands of French university students swarm down a Parisian boulevard yesterday after leaving the Place de la Bastille. Right: A student commits mock suicide, jumping from the Pont Neuf into the Seine.



(Photos: Reuter, AFP)

## IN BRIEF

### 1,666 slain over dowries

NEW DELHI (AP). — The Indian government reported yesterday that 1,666 women were murdered in the last 22 months by their husbands or in-laws for not providing enough wedding gifts.

Torture and murders linked to the ancient dowry custom are reported to be on the rise because of increasing consumerism in India.

Accepting or giving dowry, however, is a criminal offence with a minimum prison sentence of five years and a fine of 15,000 rupees (\$1,153).

### Saudis to upgrade navy

BAHRAIN (Reuters). — Saudi Arabia plans to upgrade its navy to help protect oil terminals and export lanes in the Gulf and the Red Sea, diplomats in the region said yesterday.

They said the kingdom wanted to form a submarine fleet and open a new naval base as part of a long-term buildup.

British, French and West German companies are competing for the multi-billion-dollar orders from the Saudis.

### Attack spurs call-up in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (AP). — The United Arab Emirates was reported yesterday to be preparing for military conscription, a week after one of its offshore oil fields was attacked in a spillover of the Iraq-Iran war.

Several newspapers here quoted Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid as saying his ministry "has prepared a draft law on conscription, and we hope we will soon achieve what is good for our state and our people."

Cardinal to visit Israel

NEW YORK (AP). — Roman Catholic Cardinal John J. O'Connor will leave immediately after Christmas for a 10-day visit to Israel and other Middle Eastern countries, the Archdiocese of New York announced.

The New York cardinal was invited last summer by then Prime Minister Shimon Peres after calling for a homeland for the Palestinians. Peres said he should see "the other side of the story."

O'Connor, who is making the trip in his capacity as President of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, will also visit Jordan and Egypt.

### Man caught smuggling 35,388 gems in rectum

AMSTERDAM (Reuters). — A man from Singapore was found to have 35,388 diamonds worth \$328,000 up his rectum, Dutch customs officials said yesterday.

The unnamed man picked up the jewels in Bombay and aimed to take them through the Netherlands to Antwerp's diamond centre to avoid customs duty, they said.

A spokeswoman said the man was caught on Tuesday but the announcement was delayed because of the time it had taken officials to count the diamonds.

### Record price for wine

LONDON (Reuters). — A Jordanian who said he never touched alcohol yesterday bought the world's most expensive bottle of white wine for a heady \$39,600.

The rare 1784 Chateau D'Yquem, engraved with the initials 'Th.J.' and believed to have belonged to U.S. founding father Thomas Jefferson was sold at an auction at Christie's in London. The buyer said he had bought the wine for a friend in New York who wanted it for its historic value.

## Truce talks held in Damascus; stand-off in Lebanon fighting

DAMASCUS. (AP, Reuter). — Nabih Berri, head of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia, said he approved a draft agreement yesterday to end fighting with Palestinians in Lebanon.

"Now it is up to the Palestinians to stand by their national responsibilities" and help end the bloodshed, Berri said after the draft agreement was announced in the Syrian capital. Details of the proposed agreement were not immediately available.

The proposal was hammered together by Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt and other Lebanese leftist leaders who met under the auspices of Syrian Vice-President Abdul-Hamid Khattab. Jumblatt told reporters the Syrian-backed Palestine National Salvation Front had been handed a copy of the proposal.

In Beirut, fires lit up Shatilla and Bourj al-Barajneh camps and explosions rocked the capital as Shi'ite-Palestinian fighting intensified, police said. Streets in densely-

populated suburbs near the embattled settlements emptied rapidly as civilians fled for cover.

Amal sources said Shi'ite fighters repulsed Palestinian attempts to launch sorties outside Bourj al-Barajneh under cover of artillery fire from the camp and from Palestinian positions in Druze-held hills to the southeast.

Palestinian sources said Amal militiamen had used Soviet-made T-54 tanks to blast the flimsy dwellings and alleys of Shatilla, where 6,000 refugees live.

Fighting between Amal and the Palestinians appeared stalemated yesterday two days after the guerrillas repulsed a tank-led Amal assault.

Police said 75 per cent of the 2 square kilometre Shatilla has been destroyed by Shi'ite tank and artillery fire. Shatilla is home for 14,000 refugees. Hundreds of families have fled Shatilla and resettled in neighbourhoods controlled by Druze militiamen of Walid Jumblatt.

Jumblatt is allied with Justice Minister Nabih Berri, the leader of Amal, in the civil war against Lebanon's Christians. But he has remained neutral in the PLO-Amal war.

Amal yesterday buried two militiamen killed in an overnight grenade attack against one of its offices in the heart of West Beirut.

Police said seven Amal offices, away from the embattled camps area, were struck in hit-and-run attacks by unidentified gunmen.

A newspaper in Abu Dhabi reported yesterday that Palestinian fighters dispersed in Arab countries were being mobilized for defence of besieged refugee camps in Lebanon.

The United Arab Emirates' semi-official daily *Al-Itihad* quoted what it called well-informed Palestinian sources as saying "Palestinian fighters would first be gathered in Iraq."

The fighters would then be reorganized in military units before being sent to Lebanon, said the sources.



Smoke rises from the damaged camp of Shatilla after it was heavily attacked by Amal forces that have been besieging it for the past two weeks. (AFP photo)

## Army in Punjab set to move on Sikh rebels

CHANDIGARH, India. — The Indian army yesterday prepared to march out of its barracks in Punjab with flags flying to show its strength in response to the State government's call for help against Sikh extremists.

Official sources said the army would make anti-terrorist sweeps and stage "flag marches" in parts of the tense northern state following an S.O.S. from the moderate Sikh government of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

There were no immediate reports of troop movements but army commanders and civil officials were meeting in several cities to draw up lists of hideouts and suspected extremists prior to an anti-terrorist round-up, the sources said.

Barnala's administration asked for help after the worst-ever massacre by Sikh extremists on Sunday in which 24 Hindus were killed. Yesterday Sikh militants gunned down two more Hindus. Punjab

police said.

Sunday's slaughter sparked anti-Sikh riots and arson in Delhi and protests across North India.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi declared yesterday his government would take the "toughest and most aggressive" measures to deal with Sikh terrorism.

More than 600 people have been killed in Punjab this year in attacks that police blame on extremists fighting for an independent Sikh state. The Sikhs, whose religion is an offshoot of Hinduism, make up 2 per cent of India's 780 million population but are a majority in the rich farming state.

The Indian government reported yesterday that some 10,000 Hindus have fled Punjab to escape the Sikh terrorism.

There were no statistics on the number of Sikh families who have fled to Punjab from New Delhi and other states to escape the Hindu backlash. (Reuters, AP)

## Jordan, Egypt to develop Gulf of Akaba tourism

AMMAN (Reuters). — Jordan and Egypt agreed yesterday to set up a company to develop tourist attractions on the Gulf of Akaba.

The agreement was signed by Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fouad Sultan and Jordanian Minister of Information and Tourism Mohammed Al-Khatib.

The two ministers said their coun-

tries would work as one unit to promote joint packages in the Gulf for international tourists.

The meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint tourism committee also decided to return to the pre-1967 flight route between Egypt and Jordan. This would cut the flight time by 20 minutes and save the airlines \$7 million a year in fuel costs, Jordan's new director of Civil Aviation, Amin al-Husseini said.

## S. Africa miners strike

JOHANNESBURG (AP). — About 5,000 black miners struck at a gold mine yesterday after one miner was killed and eight wounded in a clash with police.

Virtually the entire day shift walked out at the Grootvlei mine, east of Johannesburg, according to a senior executive of General Mining Union Corp.

He added that police were summoned by residents of a nearby neighbourhood after as many as 200 miners "caused a disturbance" on leaving a meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers on Wednesday night. In the ensuing clash, one miner was fatally shot and eight others wounded.

General Mining said gold production was at a standstill.

South African police yesterday

also banned a memorial service planned for a black physician and his wife, both anti-apartheid activists, who were shot and killed outside their home this week.

Community leaders in Mamelodi, a black township outside Pretoria, had planned to hold a major memorial service next Sunday for Dr. Fabian Ribeiro and his wife, Florence, who were killed earlier this week.

An order issued by the Police Commissioner for Northern Transvaal said no funerals can be held in Mamelodi on weekends or holidays.

The order also says funerals must be held indoors, can be addressed only by ordained ministers and can last no longer than three hours. No banners or placards can be displayed.



### A NEW WAY TO KISS AT MIDNIGHT!

For the first time in Tel Aviv, an exciting "open house" party on New Year's Eve at the Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel

- \* A choice of meat or dairy "eat-as-much-as-you-like" buffets
- \* Dancing until dawn to the music of the "Marshall's" in the Diamond Room starring Moshe Chaloueli and Rivi Ben-Bassat
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- \* Exciting disco dancing in the famous Reflections 2000 discotheque
- \* Romantic music by Yonatan and Margalit in the Lobby Lounge
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\* Prices do not include service charge, taxes, beverages

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## World arms bill: \$900b.

By DAVID HOROVITZ  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Every minute, \$1.8 million is being spent globally on defence, according to a new study of world military expenditures.

Arms spending during 1986 is expected to reach some \$900 billion, according to the report published by the Armsament and Disarmament Information Unit at Sussex University.

Compiled by Ruth Sivard, a former U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency official, the 52-page study analyses arms-spending in easily-understandable terms.

It states that one hour's world arms-spending represents the expenditure necessary to immunize 3.5 million children against infectious disease.

It took the equivalent of half an hour's military outlay for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to destroy a plague of locusts in Africa — an operation that saved enough grain to feed 1.2 million people for a year.

Weapons purchases have brought a massive public debt for future generations to pay off, the report states, adding that efforts to service this debt have affected world trade and have become a source of instability in the Third World.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union are the world's largest spenders, but developing countries are spending increasing amounts on weaponry. Third World military expenditure has increased six-fold since 1969, according to the report.

South African Zionist Federation (TELFEF)  
in conjunction with Tour Va'aleh W.Z.O. Aliyah Department

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**ON DAY TOUR OF CENTRAL GALILEE**  
visiting Carmel, Manof and the Segev Area

On  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1986**  
departing from Tel Aviv at 7:30 a.m.

The charge of the trip is the equivalent of \$5.50, which covers cost for lunch at Moshav Manof.

For details and registration, and for all enquiries concerning aliyah, call Jenny Galsansky, Tel. 03-290131. Prior booking essential by Tuesday noon.

0624-10-023

**The City of Frankfurt**  
is looking for close relatives of the former Jewish  
**Oberbürgermeister Dr. Ludwig Landmann**  
(1869-1945)

for a Day of Remembrance  
and request them to contact The Embassy of the Federal Republic of  
Germany, P.O.B. 18038, Tel Aviv 61180 Tel. 03-234111-5 (Mrs. Katka) if  
possible by December 31, 1986.

06728-10-028

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SAAR

### ISRAEL, BRITAIN AND THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION

אגודת ישראל, בריטניה וחבר העמים

Members and friends are invited to a Luncheon Meeting on  
Tuesday, December 16, 1986 at 1:00 p.m.  
at Beit Sokolow, 4 Kaplan Street, Tel Aviv

Guest of Honour  
**H.E. The United States Ambassador,  
Mr. Thomas R. Pickering**

Subject: U.S.A.-Israel Relations

Cost of luncheon: Members — NIS 15 each; Guests — NIS 20 each  
Reservations with remittance should be made to the Hon. Sec. P.O.B. 16266,  
Tel Aviv 61 162, or by phone to Mr. Furman's Secretary (Friday) 03-5103111  
between 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Sunday-Thursday).

04-023-10-124



By DVORAH GETZLER

Post Knesset Reporter

Not even the most aggressively "secular, leftist, Bundist" elements have shown such effrontery in trying to undermine Jewish tradition, Agudat Yisrael's Menahem Porush thundered from the Knesset podium this week at Shmuel Mordechai Virshubski.

At issue was what Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer was later to call an "ideological discussion" on the need to ensure the representation of women on the country's religious councils and rabbinical courts.

Virshubski, who opened the debate, stated categorically that religious councils, and the committees appointing *dayanim* (rabbinical court judges) and chief rabbis of towns, were - by law - open to women. The law, he said, spoke of "persons" without specifying men or women. And that absence of discrimination was consistent with the state's bodies, set up by secular laws enacted by a secular Knesset.

Many Orthodox women wanted the issue thrashed out. Virshubski said, adding that he knew that many others thought differently. He made

## Sound and fury in Knesset on religious women's jobs

it clear that his words were not to be taken as an attack on religion.

Israel's women had risen to the highest positions, including prime minister, and Supreme Court judge. The only statutory bodies from which they were excluded were the religious councils whose operations affected men and women, and religious and secular alike.

"We live under some sort of coercion - some sort of perversion - that we have created for ourselves. We give in to dictates that have no force in law, no basis in anything that can be said to contain an element of logic," Virshubski said. "Nor are we pleading the cause of some marginal group."

Women such as Lea Shakkiel, of Yeroham, fighting to be permitted entry to her local religious council, were a substantial and very able section of the population, Virshubski said. He sought "no revolution,

merely a change of direction, of social climate." Such a change would go far towards minimizing the polarization of society between religious and secular.

There was enough to separate the two groups without "discriminatory arrangements that have no basis in law, that are arrived at perhaps by coalition agreement, perhaps by under-the-table deals."

Judaism, said Sarah Doron of the Liberal wing of the Likud, was not only a matter of *kashrut*. It was also a matter of morality: of teaching "that man is a man and not a wolf."

Denying 50 per cent of the population the right to representation in bodies that were not halachic was driving the youth away from any respect for Jewish tradition, Doron said.

Not until women sat as equals on the rabbinical court benches would the lack of respect these courts

showed for women change, she added, going much further than Virshubski, who had repeatedly stressed that he had no intention of interfering with any halachic body.

Shulamit Aloni (Citizen Rights Movement) insisted that the only solution was a separation of religion from the state. If that did not come about, she said, women would be forced to boycott the religious institutions that had boycotted them and made them second-class citizens.

The National Religious Party's David Danino took the opposite tack: the Knesset was not the place for this discussion. The whole matter should be referred to the Chief Rabbi, he urged.

Nor was much more comfort forthcoming from Hammer. It was not just a matter of the rule of law, he told Aloni. Patience and tolerance were necessary, he told the

Knesset, admitting that some rabbis had to be educated into accepting a climate that was not discriminatory towards women.

And that is precisely the bind that the religious parties find themselves in, as Porush demonstrated.

Halachic opposition to permitting women to participate in the councils, said Porush, "is not at all to the detriment of women's standing in halacha." But for Porush that meant that a woman's greatest honour must be found within the confines of her home and family.

"Has not the time come for you in this secular Knesset to admit that there is a difference between our families and yours? Which families honour their womenfolk? And which families kick them and betray them? For what purpose are you seeking equality of rights - to pervert, to uproot the very foundations of our Torah? Desist from this, forthwith," Porush urged.

To clinch his argument on the importance of religion for the State of Israel, Porush invoked a cable from President Reagan congratulating the Aguda in the U.S. for its role "in strengthening religion, and hence strengthening America."

## S. African, Uruguayan envoys accredited

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The new South African ambassador presented his credentials yesterday at Beit Hanassi, in an atmosphere that was low-key, businesslike and almost chilly.

Eduard Antoine Loubser, a 51-year-old career diplomat, presented his letters of credence to President Herzog, as Yossi Beilin, the political director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Avi Primor, the deputy director-general, and other officials looked on. The private chat and champagne toast between the two took only a few minutes, and the president did not chat with the press afterwards, as he usually does.

"Israel must maintain diplomatic relations with all possible countries, and South Africa is one of them," Beilin told reporters later. "On the other hand, Israel will not tolerate apartheid, and we are part of the efforts to oppose this aspect of South Africa."

Beilin denied that Israel was trying to fill the economic vacuum left by companies that have pulled out of South Africa, maintaining that exports to that country had not increased appreciably in the last few years.

"There is no policy to fill the shoes of companies that leave," Beilin said. If Europe and the U.S. apply sanctions against South Africa, he continued, Israel will not lag behind.

As to rumours of arms deals, Israel "observes the 1977 UN embargo," Beilin stated.

The new envoy, who studied international relations at the University of Pretoria, was his government's chief of protocol before coming to Israel. Born in Cape Town, he is married and has three children.

Beit Hanassi sources were surprised by the meagre press coverage of the ceremony. Only a South Afri-

South African Ambassador

Eduard Antoine Loubser. (Harari)

Uruguayan Ambassador Juan

Andres Pacheco Ramirez. (Harari)

can TV crew and a few Israeli reporters and photographers were present.

Shortly after Loubser left, the new

ambassador of Uruguay, Juan

Andres Pacheco Ramirez, arrived to

present his credentials. The 47-year-

old ambassador, who served in Cairo

in a lesser diplomatic post for six

years and speaks Arabic, studied law

at the University of Brussels.

## Nearly 1,000 nurses at convention

## The newest techniques of a troubled profession

By JUDY SIEGEL

Post Science and Health Reporter

Nurses do more than give injections, change sheets, hand out pills, take temperatures, check infusions - and go out on strike. They also find ways to calm frightened relatives of patients, overcome children's fears of operations, identify teenagers starving themselves to death, and teach mothers of premature babies how to love them.

New techniques and programmes initiated by nurses around the country were discussed this week at the fifth national convention of Israeli nurses at the Jerusalem Hilton. Attended by nearly 1,000 female and male nurses, the convention concentrated on advances in the profession, but could not dispel the clouds created by the recent nurses' strikes.

Yael Kaplan, of Beilinson Hospital reported on the growing phenomenon of *anorexia nervosa* among teenage girls who nearly starve themselves to death to try to conform to slim fashions, or as a way out of emotional or family problems. The nurses in the project made hospital staffers and parents more aware of the problem. Kaplan said that the girls must not be treated in mental hospitals, as is the current practice, but at day hospitals that send them home at night. The stigma of being confined in a mental institution, she explained, could be very damaging.

At the other end of the diet spectrum, public health nurses in Ramat Gan surveyed 210 children aged 18 months to 12 years who were overweight. They counselled parents on low-fat diets and psychological aspects of the problem. To their surprise, 61 per cent denied that their children had a weight problem. Only half the parents could distinguish between food groups like fats and proteins. A third said their child ate four or more meals a day. A full 71 per cent had no idea that excess weight in children can cause psychological or social problems.

Noga Peled, an operating room nurse at Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus, described a programme for preparing children, aged three to 12, for surgery. Counselling turned the child from a "victim" into a "full partner" in the hospitalization process and as a result youngsters suffered much less dependency, negativism and fear. She urged that children awaiting surgery be prepared emotionally as well as medically.

Parents of premature babies are often put off by the tiny creatures and afraid to touch them. Meira Kasten, a nurse at Sheba Hospital's premature baby unit, worked with parents and encouraged them both to touch them and to stimulate their

senses by talking or playing music to them. This not only strengthens the parent-baby bond, but also promotes development.

Preventive medicine has a long way to go, reported nurses from surgery A at Beilinson. In a study of 180 women referred to the department due to lumps in their breasts, the nurses learned that a large majority had never been checked before. Most discovered the lump by chance, while bathing. As many as 17 per cent delayed seeking medical help by three months to three years for fear of cancer.

Public health nurses in the ultra-Orthodox town of Bnei Brak told of the difficulty of locating children requiring immunization. At state schools, public health nurses see pupils on a regular basis and administer immunizations on a pre-set schedule. But in Bnei Brak, pupils are scattered in numerous private *heder*s or in Talmud Tora classes and the nurse has had to be a detective to find them. At first, schools demanded that a male nurse give the shots, but they finally backed down and got used to the idea of a female nurse. Now they initiate calls to nurses to ask for shots, as well as for advice on various health matters.

The two day nurses' convention opened on Tuesday with a speech by President Chaim Herzog, who said that the recent series of nurses' strikes had done the "profession a serious injustice." The strikers were unjustifiably portrayed as lacking compassion for the patients' suffering. Although Herzog disagreed with the nurses' decision to abandon with the patients, he insisted that the notion that they were "heartless" could not be further from the truth.

He noted, half joking, that a nurses' strike in the Australian state of Victoria during his recent visit there had been top news, and that for a moment he had been "tempted to offer them my help." His intervention in the October strike in Israel had brought the two sides to the negotiating table.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almouzni urged that nurses be given a say in the decision-making process in the health system, because only across the board cooperation could revamp the troubled health network. The current shortage of many hospital drugs and supplies were a danger signal, she said.

Ziva Tal, chairman of the convention, reported on a recent survey of Jordanian nurses, most of whom expressed dissatisfaction with their pay, working conditions and image. She said that Israeli nurses were ready to join their Jordanian counterparts in the struggle to upgrade their profession.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday assured members of the Joint Committee of Ethiopian Jews that the government was using all possible means to bring to Israel the families of Ethiopians already here. One member of the committee said: "If the state wants to bring them it can." Shamir replied: "If it depended only on us, not a soul would remain there." (Hanania Herman/GPO)

## Private guards for the rich as resources for police dwindle

A few years ago, when two elderly people were assaulted in their homes one night, it was front page news.

Now such stories get buried in the inside pages, even when there's a photograph of a grandmotherly figure, showing how the burglar grabbed her around the throat, pushed her onto the floor and held a knife to her breast.

Spend a night driving around Tel Aviv, counting the blue and white police cars. One, two, maybe three. And if you look closely you may recognize that mustachioed policeman. You saw him an hour ago, driving in another part of town.

Try calling 100, the police emergency number.

The hundreds of calls the police get every 24 hours, the diminishing resources available to them: the gradual depletion of their ranks as the best and the brightest find much better ways to make a much better living - it all adds up to a police force unable to provide the most basic service of all, protection from the jungle animals, the junkies, the common thieves, the professional burglars.

So what's a citizen to do?

Those who can afford it can pay for private guards who patrol in cars that don't have sirens but do carry one or two well-trained men who are

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv  
Robert Rosenberg

licensed to carry weapons, and who aren't afraid to walk into the pitch black of a backyard where maybe a prowler is hiding, ready with club in hand to strike and make a run for it.

Some 6,000 people and businesses in the Tel Aviv area have signed up with one or another of the private security companies with emergency numbers and silent alarms and patrol cars and those men ready to walk into the dark.

The companies - there are now eight in the Dan Region alone - sprouted like mushrooms after the first rains of new wealth came at the end of the 1970s.

Moked 99, the oldest of the companies, is also the largest, with a computerized alarm response system that is more sophisticated than anything the Israeli police can afford.

A hundred or more calls a night come into Moked 99's computer. Ninety per cent are false alarms.

And 90 per cent of the real break-ins involve junkies trying to come up

with money for a fix.

Push a button on a hand-held transmitter the size of a packet of cigarettes, and a patrol car will be on its way to the scene of a burglary or the home of a heart attack victim, to a household where a child has had an accident or to a bank branch where a window has been broken.

Afterwards, the private guards will wait for the police.

Most of Moked 99's guards are ex-officers. Many are students.

With a weird, noticeable serenity they step in and out of the darkness, checking doors and windows; and if it looks like a second-storey man was at work, they'll trace those steps, too.

At night in the city, it sometimes seems as if nobody will ever come to shut off the echoing walls of the burglar sirens.

Junkies speak of "the *Ariza*," the siren. They say they hear a siren in their head when they need a fix.

At night in the dark central business district, it sometimes sounds like the city itself is a junkie, needing a fix, sirens wailing inside its head.

Meanwhile, the policemen's wives demonstrated this week for higher pay that nobody really believes the government is ready to pay.

So those who can afford it are hiring private guards.

## Light-hearted reunion at president's house

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

"This is the first time I've opened a gift instead of wrapping up," quipped Motke (Mordechai) Mendelson, chief administrative officer at Beit Hanassi. His present was a ball of string, for which he will undoubtedly find some use.

The occasion was a fun-filled reunion of the entourage that accompanied President and Mrs. Herzog on their tour of Oceania and South East Asia. The Herzogs had decided to give the party an informal atmosphere and succeeded in conveying this mood not only to the people with whom they had travelled, but to the stay-at-home spouses who had followed the journey via electronic and print media.

Mrs. Herzog, who together with her assistant Judith Shaviv had devised the gifts, gleefully presided over the awards ceremony. There were crepe paper "floral" garlands for Beit Hanassi staffers Nissan Limor, Ami Gluska and Chessa Weiner. The Foreign Ministry's Chanan Bar-On and Avi Primor were presented with a telephone labelled with all the countries to which they had made calls. Avi Ganot, the head of the security team, who had been constantly on the alert, was given a satin pillow on which to catch up on his sleep. As he accepted the parcel, his colleagues warned, "Don't open it until you've checked it."

For the Israel Air Force cabin crew who had served the passengers with the professionalism of highly trained commercial airline stewards, there was a chef's hat, a thermos

flask and other recognizable catering paraphernalia. A lot of thought also went into the gift for the journalists - a telephone taken for each.

Beit Hanassi spokesman Gluska ably demonstrated his skill as a poet, adroitly balancing his rhymes with the presentations.

The last was a Histadrut medal for the most outstanding worker - and the recipient was of course Chaim Herzog, who had laughed uproariously when the other awards were made and was no less amused with his own.

In one of the evening's rare serious moments, Herzog spoke of the possible results of the voyage.

There are already indications, he said, that exports to the Pacific region will increase over the next year from half a million dollars to \$2.5 million. Tonga's crown prince and foreign minister is due to arrive in Israel next week, and Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke on January 7, followed by delegations from Fiji and New Zealand. Other visits by governors general, prime ministers and cabinet ministers are expected.

"On that unforgettable tour," Herzog told his assembled guests, "we became a family, and each of us will remember that, whenever there are developments between those countries and Israel. Each one of us has some share in that."

Herzog admitted that he had not been overly enthusiastic at the prospect of such a long and exhausting journey, but had allowed himself to be pressured by Primor who spent two years planning the trip.

## Israeli, American mayors at Kirkpatrick Forum

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Mayors and academics, including five mayors from the U.S., will gather at the Tel Aviv Hilton next week to discuss the problems of municipal government and its relations with central government.

The conference, expected to be attended by about 500 participants, is the first event sponsored by the Kirkpatrick Forum affiliated with Tel Aviv University.

The forum, funded by an association set up in the U.S., will hold conferences and seminars and sponsor research on a wide range of subjects of public interest in Israel.

Dr. Jeane Kirkpatrick, the former U.S. ambassador to the UN, after whom the forum is named, will attend the conference.

Dan Pattir, director of the forum, says that municipal government was chosen as the forum's first topic because it is the most basic governmental unit in the country.

## News in the optics field - Bifocals

Contact lenses for adults

Latest developments make it possible today to solve the problem of people suffering from headaches while reading, and to free them of the need to keep putting on and removing their eyeglasses. Bifocal contact lenses enable you to switch from closeup to extended range viewing without having to change eyeglasses or strain your eyes. You can read a newspaper or watch television alternately and effortlessly - as simply, comfortably and easily as when you didn't wear glasses. The latest contact lenses have many advantages over bifocal eyeglasses which are heavy, clumsy and keep sliding down the nose. The lenses, on the other hand, blend with your natural look.

Experiments conducted abroad have shown that adults accustomed themselves to these lenses far more readily, as a result of the modern structure of the lenses. Another factor is the ability to fit them on people who have worn glasses for many years and have only now tried contact lenses. Bifocal contact lenses have only recently arrived in Israel as well. Having been exposed to extended testing with proven success, the Ishonit chain was chosen for Bifocals fitting and marketing in Israel.

## Israel's Britons: Red, white and blue - always

By BERNARD JOSEPHS

Jerusalem Post Reporter

There will always be an England, says the song. And the English will always be English - even those who make aliyah. The Americans, the South Africans and the Russians tend to blend. But inside every Brit there remains a rock-hard kernel that is forever red, white and blue.

This is the view of Norman Oster, national vice chairman of the British Settlers' Association, *Hiladut Olei Britania* (HOB), which is preparing for its annual conference that starts in Jerusalem on Saturday night.

The theme of this year's gathering is the British contribution to the quality of life in Israel. The conference will consider the influence of British immigrants on religion, education and the media in Israel.

The organization has considerable reason to be satisfied at this point. The 35,000 British Jews who are now also Israeli citizens (most maintain

dual nationality) are the equivalent of about 10 per cent of the entire UK community.

Over the past few years 800 immigrants have been arriving here annually from the sceptred isle. Oster thinks the figure should be much higher. But he admits it isn't bad for a community rooted in the affluent West. After all, he pointed out, most Jews in Britain have escaped the ravages of unemployment and are living comfortable lives in a tolerant society.

But the HOB's main concern is not those who stay in the old country but those who decide to build their lives here. For them, admitted Oster, it is not always easy.

While other new immigrants "tend to sublimate their origins when they make aliyah," he explained, "the English somehow keep their flying like the Union Jack." For this reason, Israelis tend to regard them as outsiders. That is why they rarely get to the top in such fields as politics, banking and business - fields in which they excel back in London.

The inherent modesty and lack of aggression of the British immigrants put them at a disadvantage when they are up against native-born candidates for promotion, said Oster, a successful international lawyer.

"They should avoid remaining English at the expense of being Israelis. They have got to regard themselves as Israelis of English origin - and behave accordingly. It is

HOB's aim to help them make the adjustment."

Their problems, however, have not stopped British immigrants from making major contributions to Israel, asserted Oster. They may not make any impression in national politics (although President Herzog, an Irishman, can be counted as a near-miss) but they have certainly made their mark on the local scene.

"Organizations such as the Committee of Concerned Citizens are British-founded and it is rare to find a local council without an English immigrant actively involved," he said.

British immigrants are also renowned for their contribution to medicine, science and education.

Oster made a scathing attack on the lack of effort by the authorities here and the Zionist organizations in Britain to attract more immigrants.

"British Jewry has never had a leading member of the government

go there to speak about aliyah. They always talk about fund raising. Yet there is a tremendous reservoir to be tapped."

"Britain has its potential problems and there are many who might consider aliyah if only the possibility were presented to them."

The same criticism can be levelled at the English Zionist leadership, said Oster. Whenever there is a proposal that the leadership should be required to make aliyah, it is either voted down or honoured in the breach.

"There are always difficulties in immigration," he went on, "but it is for us to tell people of the advantages of living in an exciting, developing society like Israel."

For those who do come, Oster pointed out, "the HOB is here to help them and to provide a social framework so that they can get over that isolation that all new immigrants feel."

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50 מן האל



# Short-term gains versus permanent interest

Yehuda Litani

ISRAEL'S DESIRE to crack the wall of enmity surrounding her pushed some Israeli leaders, even before the establishment of the state, to develop relations with ethnic minorities in the region.

Elihu Sasson forged ties with Christians in Lebanon and Syria during the 1930s and 1940s. Yigal Alon promoted a plan during the 1950s to assist the Druse community in Syria and Lebanon in establishing an independent state.

The Kurdish rebellion against the Iraqi government during the 1960s was monitored by Israeli "advisers." In addition, Israel supplied Barazani's fighters with arms and ammunition. In order to maintain a strategic balance vis-a-vis the hostile Arab countries, Israel redoubled its efforts at friendly relations with Turkey and the Shah's regime in Iran. And, of course, during the late 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s we lived through the episode of strong political and military ties with the Lebanese Christians.

Most of these alliances vanished in the fast-changing realities of the region. The Kurdish leader Mullah Mustafa Barazani was defeated by the Iraqis; the Iranian Shah Reza Pahlavi, was replaced by a fundamentalist Shi'ite regime whose hostility towards Israel and Zionism rivals that of Syria and Libya. As far as the Christian community in Lebanon is concerned, Israel has learned her lesson on that score.

The peace agreement with Egypt was Israel's major breakthrough in the hostile Sunni-Arab world. And yet, despite eight years of peaceful relations with the largest Arab state, Israeli leaders still have a tendency to revert to outdated thought-patterns, as we have seen in the complicated arms deal between the U.S., Israel and Iran.

Egyptian officials said this week that

Israel's attempt at making contact with "less radical" elements within the Khomeini government, in the hope of improved relations after the ruler's death, was badly received by President Mubarak. The Egyptian president was said to be "outraged" by the whole business with Iran, though he declined to give vent to his feelings for fear of a cut in U.S. aid.

Well-informed sources say that King Hussein too, reacted furiously to the deal. The Jordanian king is Saddam Hussein's closest ally in the region, and the king was said to feel personally insulted, "mainly because of the American involvement."

The Iranian arms deal could therefore adversely affect Israel's chances of rapprochement with those Sunni-Arab states known in the region as "the moderate bloc": Egypt, Jordan, the Gulf states, Morocco and Tunisia. The fundamentalist Shi'ite regime in Iran is perceived as a direct threat by the moderate bloc, which is why they are trying to help Iraq in the war with Iran. Their main concern is not saving Saddam's regime but obstructing the Shi'ite revolution in order to prevent their own fundamentalists, particularly the Moslem Brotherhood, from ousting the present governments.

Excluding the Syrian Ba'ath government which has links with Iran, this is essentially a struggle between the Sunni Arab majority against the non-Arab Shi'ite minority.

For the last two years, the more moderate Arab states have been involved in efforts to promote a peace process including Israel, under the auspices of the United States. Egypt and Jordan in particular, have been trying to bring the more moderate elements within the PLO into the peace process. King Hussein's present rift with the Fatah leadership is only temporary; the king is well aware that without proper



How to end the encirclement?

Palestinian representation the present stalemate will continue.

The Hashemite ruler is presently attempting to press the Fatah leadership to modify its positions, especially with regard to accepting Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, in order to allow him to move ahead on the peace talks.

The Arab world today is in a state of disunity. No doubt, many Israelis take comfort from the Iran-Iraq war, the inter-necine war in Lebanon, the split between Syria and the other Sunni states and the rift between the Fatah and Jordan. But days may come when present schisms and quarrels are forgotten. Of course, the present willingness of moderate Arab states to join a peace process may also change.

ISRAEL'S ENDLESS efforts to break out of the encirclement by establishing relations with a third party have never succeeded in subduing the enmity. At the most, we may have managed to delay outbreaks of hostilities. We have tried to disregard the Palestinians in favour of direct negotiations with the Arab states. We have attempted to bypass the Arab states when they turned down our demands by encouraging non-Arab elements in the Middle East.

Ignoring the Palestinians and bypassing the Sunni majority, seizing temporary advantages from the divisions and rifts may be good for another ten or twenty years — perhaps more. But once we grasp the fact that the conflict can be resolved only together with the other side — the enemies — and not through a third party, maybe we will intensify our efforts to get negotiations going with the surrounding majority.

It is not only Israel's fault that the peace process has not got off the ground. The Palestinians, or at least a great number of them, together with some Arab states, still believe that Israel can and should be wiped out. However, today there are Palestinians and Arab states, or at least their leaders,

who are prepared for diplomacy in place of war.

The Israel-Arab conflict is first and foremost with the Palestinians and beyond them with the Arab Sunni states. Helping Shi'ite elements, whether in Iran or in Lebanon (in the present conflict between Amal and the PLO) may serve Israel's interests in the short run. But in the long range such actions will, without doubt, deepen and intensify the animosity between Israel and the Sunni-Arab majority in the region.

The geo-political position of Iran, many Israeli officials believe, is of great consequence to Israel's security, principally in order to balance the Arab threat to Israel. Therefore we should attempt to maintain friendly relations with Iranian leaders. That explains why we should take Iran's part against Iraq, who will emerge as Israel's most implacable enemy once the war is over.

There is no doubt that Iran, Turkey and even the Lebanese Shi'ites are important, even vital for Israel's security. But this strange mixture of acting like a regional superpower on the one hand and maintaining a siege mentality on the other, is untenable.

However, between the superpower strategy and the siege mentality there is still much room for maneuver. Two main considerations apply here: time and space. In the short term, maybe the saying "when in Rome do as the Romans do" is applicable to all the actors in the volatile Middle East, including ourselves. Brief alliances today with the Christians against the Shi'ites, tomorrow the other way around, may occasionally serve our interests. As the Lebanese "survived," we too may survive. But ultimately the space factor — the Sunni-Arab countries surrounding us — must dictate a serious attempt at rapprochement with them so that we not be regarded for all eternity as an alien implant in the Middle East.

## Wolf Blitzer, in Washington, says it would be wise for Israel to admit any mistakes it may have made

THE MOOD in Washington is ugly. Another president is in deep trouble and there are many reminders of Watergate.

A hungry Washington press corps is again searching for evidence of criminal behaviour on the part of high U.S. officials. Careers were established during Watergate; the same might happen today.

Who is going to be first to find a new "Deep Throat," the mysterious source which produced so much revealing and ultimately damaging information for *The Washington Post's* Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein during Watergate? Woodward is still breaking impressive stories for that newspaper while Bernstein has gone on to other endeavours.

There is fierce competition in the American news media for additional information about the Iranian arms scandal. Beyond *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, are scores of other daily newspapers, weekly news magazines, radio and television networks and other media outlets working around the clock to land the big story. Under these circumstances, it is understandable that "all the president's men" feel as if they are in a state of siege.

Most of them have already adopted a bunker mentality, very worried about their own futures as this story unfolds. "Sometimes it pays to have been bypassed," one official said. "I'm happy I wasn't in the loop on those decisions."

President Ronald Reagan's personal popularity has slipped badly over the past month as the arms controversy has erupted into a full-scale scandal. The diversion of those sales proceeds to the Contras fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua may have violated U.S. law. There are hints that some private arms dealers took huge and maybe illegal profits. A special counsel will investigate all the gory details even as separate Congressional inquiries continue to do the same.

Reagan's initial reaction, like

Richard Nixon's 13 years ago, is to blame the press for all of his problems. "This whole thing boils down to a great irresponsibility on the part of the press," Reagan said in a remarkable conversation with *Time* magazine's Hugh Sidey. "I have to say that there is a bitter bile in my throat these days. I've never seen the sharks circling like they now are with blood in the water. What is driving me up the wall is that this wasn't a failure until the press got a tip from that rag in Beirut and began to play it up. I told them that publicity could destroy this, that it could get people killed. They then went right on."

But Reagan and his aides have only themselves to blame. They miscalculated badly, and instead of acknowledging the mistake, they decided to tough it out. No president wants to admit making a mistake.

But now White House aides reluctantly acknowledge that Reagan may have been better served if he had delivered three weeks ago the same speech made by Vice President George Bush on Wednesday. After explaining the strategic importance of Iran and the human desire to win the freedom of the American hostages in Lebanon, the vice president said: "Given 20/20 hindsight, call it a mistaken tactic if you want to. It was risky, but potentially of long-term value. The shaping of the Iranian policy involved difficult choices."

Americans can forgive anyone — even a president — for making a mistake. That's normal; no one is perfect. But what they cannot accept is a subsequent cover-up or a lie. Nixon did not authorize the original break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate office complex. That was the work of some of his overly zealous aides, including Gordon Liddy and Howard Hunt. Nixon's great mistake, of course, was his subsequent behaviour. He

authorized an attempted cover-up of the facts. In the end, when it was all uncovered, he was forced to step down from office.

In fairness to Reagan, there are many differences between Watergate and the current political crisis disrupting Washington. For one thing, as Bob Woodward himself has pointed out, Reagan was searching for an honourable foreign policy achievement. Nixon's men were merely after some relatively minor domestic political advantage.

Reagan also has quickly accepted the need for an independent counsel to investigate all the facts. He has promised his full cooperation. "If the investigative processes now set in motion are given an opportunity to work, all the facts concerning Iran and the transfer of funds to assist the anti-Sandinista forces will shortly be made public," he said in a nationally-televised address on Tuesday. "Then the American people — you — will be the final arbiters of this controversy. You will have all the facts and will be able to judge for yourselves." Nixon resisted any investigations for many months.

ISRAEL has been thrust right into the middle of this whole messy affair. Several senior U.S. officials think that this is justified as they believe that Israeli leaders played a crucial role in convincing the Reagan administration to authorize the clandestine arms sales to Iran, which supposedly also served Israel's broader interests in the region.

Fairly or unfairly, Israel is being widely accused in Washington of talking the U.S. into this entire ill-fated strategy. Thus, even someone as basically friendly toward Israel as Attorney-General Edwin Meese has claimed that Israel was involved in promoting this course of action from the start.

It is already apparent that Israel is going to pay a price for its involvement. One respected Washington observer, Richard Strauss, editor of the *Middle East Policy Survey*, said: "I feel that we may have seen the high-water mark in U.S.-Israeli relations. The fascination with Israeli schemes is probably at an end, not only because these schemes didn't work but also because people who



'I've never seen the sharks circling like they are now.'

were most taken by them are gone and are likely to be replaced by more middle-of-the-road establishment figures."

Already, National Security Adviser John Poindexter, a strong supporter of Israel, has been replaced by Frank Carlucci, a veteran of the State Department. Pentagon and Central Intelligence Agency who will bring to the White House a more traditional approach toward Israel and the Middle East.

Senior U.S. officials certainly understand Israel's current nervousness, especially as a result of its alleged role in allowing the profits from the Iranian arms sales to go to the Contras. They know that many of Israel's supporters in Congress would be outraged if indeed Israel had been conspiring with the Reagan administration to evade Congressionally-imposed restrictions on such funding.

Still, White House officials are not very pleased by the way Israel is trying to distance itself from the entire affair. They are irritated by Israel's assertion that it was simply responding to an American request for strategic support. "It was Israel which got us into this mess to begin with," one U.S. official charged bluntly. "Now, they are trying to walk away from it."

Lt. Col. Oliver North, the fired National Security Council operative

who worked very closely with Israel during the many months of the arms shipments, talked at length this week about the entire scheme while being questioned at the Justice Department.

And it was on the basis of what North initially disclosed that Meese accused Israel of transferring the funds to the Contras. "Meese didn't simply make it up," one U.S. official said. "He was told of the Israeli involvement by North."

"Certain monies were received in the transaction between representatives of Israel and representatives of Iran (and) were taken and made available to the forces in Central America which are opposing the Sandinista government there," Meese said. "Bank accounts were established as best we know by representatives of the forces in Central America. And this information was provided to representatives of the Israeli government — or representatives of Israel, I should say — and then these funds were put into the accounts." Meese said he wanted to be careful to say that "they were representatives of Israel — whether they were specifically authorized by the (Israeli) government or not is one of the things that I would assume we will find out."

Based on what he heard from Meese, Reagan went one step further. Without referring to Israel by name but clearly — according to his

aides — meaning Israel, he said: "Another country was facilitating those sales of weapons systems. They then were overcharging and were apparently putting the money into bank accounts of the leaders of the Contras. It wasn't us funneling money to them. This was another country."

All of which clearly leaves Israel in a rather awkward predicament. Some one is not telling the whole truth.

Poindexter, North, McFarlane, CIA Director William Casey, White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and many others are eventually going to have to come clean and tell all. What they will say about Israel's involvement could very easily continue to contradict the official Israeli line.

This scandal has gone too far for Israel to try to control what the implicated Americans will say. In the process, there could be some scapegoating of Israel and some real damage to U.S.-Israeli relations.

According to Congressional investigators and others deeply involved in the current inquiry, for example, there could be hard evidence presented that some Israeli officials — such as Amiram Nir, adviser to the prime minister on counter-terrorism — had indeed been told of the Contra connection to the Swiss bank accounts. Israel has strongly denied any knowledge that the money was

going to the Contras. But North, in his initial Justice Department questioning, is reported to have said that he had informed Nir of the Contra funding scheme.

On a broader level, Israel's alleged willingness to covertly support the Contras in other ways in recent years — at the strong urging of the U.S. — could also come to light during the course of these hearings. Israel strongly denies supporting the Contras in any way. But Israel's denials are greeted routinely nowadays with scepticism in Washington. In an unusual statement, Republican Senator David Durenberger of Minnesota, chairman of the Intelligence Committee, has already publicly said that he does not accept Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's repeated professions of innocence. Durenberger has heard statements and seen evidence during the course of his extensive hearings on the affair that clearly dispute Peres's statements.

As U.S. officials scurry for protection, trying to save their own hides, all of the most sensitive aspects of this clandestine operation will eventually come to light. Israeli leaders could very easily be embarrassed in the process. Friends of Israel say therefore that Israeli leaders would be well advised to pre-empt the inevitable and admit whatever mistakes they may have made, rather than to get involved in an organized cover-up, which the American public would not easily accept and could leave a bitter and lingering effect on U.S.-Israeli relations. The cover-up, as they say, is almost always worse than the original error.

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**The Centennial Celebration of the Founding of**

**The Jewish Theological Seminary of America**

8 Kiselev 5747 — WEDNESDAY, December 10, 1986

Binyanei Ha'uma, Ussishkin Hall

**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE**

**THEME: FORGING A WORLD JEWISH CULTURE, AND RENEWED COLLECTIVE PURPOSE**

עיצוב תרבות יהודית עולמית ומטרה קולקטיבית מחדשת

First Session, 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

The Impact of Modernity on the Study of the Jewish Past

השפעת המודרניות על הבנתנו את העבר

Welcome: — Chancellor ISMAR SCHORSCH  
Chairperson: — Prof. SHAMMA FRIEDMAN  
Presenters: — Prof. MOSHE GREENBERG, Prof. LEE LEVINE  
Respondent: — Dr. ISAIAH GARNI

Lunch, 1:00 — 2:30 p.m. by reservation only, in the Hilton Hotel

Second Session, 2:30 — 4:30 p.m.

The Meaning of Judaism for Modern Israel

משמעות היהדות במסגרת ארץ-ישראלית

Moderator: — Prof. REUVEN HAMMER  
Participants: — Dr. RAPHAEL ARZT; Dr. MICHAEL ROSENAK; Prof. ELIEZER SCHWEID; Mrs. BARBARA SPECTRE

**ACADEMIC CONVOCATION**

5:30 p.m.

CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

Prof. ISMAR SCHORSCH, Chancellor,  
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Forging a New Synthesis: Integrating the Jewish Past with our Present Condition

עיצוב סינתזה חדשה: שילוב של מורשת העבר עם מצבו הנוכחי

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREES TO  
The Honorable MOSHE KOL, Doctor of Humane Letters  
Minister YITZHAK NAVON, Doctor of Laws  
Prof. EPHRAIM URBACH, Doctor of Hebrew Letters

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREES TO DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES OF  
THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

<p style="text-align: center;">Doctor of Divinity</p> <p>Rabbi Joshua J. Adler Rabbi Raphael B. Arzi Rabbi Ervin Birnbaum Rabbi David Clayman Rabbi Nahum Cohen Rabbi Hillel I. Millgram Rabbi Aaron M. Singer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Doctor of Hebrew Letters</p> <p>Prof. Shraga Abramson Prof. Moshe Davis Prof. Haim Zalman Dimitrovsky Prof. Shamma Friedman Prof. Moshe Greenberg Prof. Reuven Hammer</p>	<p>Prof. Joel Kraemer Prof. Samuel Letzer Prof. Shalom Paul Prof. Bezalel Porten Prof. Shalom Schwartz Prof. Eugene Weiner</p>
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\* Due to the overwhelming interest in these events, the Conference and Convocation will be held in Binyanei Ha'uma. The luncheon will still be served at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel.

Simultaneous translation will be available from Hebrew to English for the Conference and the Convocation.



IN WASHINGTON, they talk of "Iranate." In Jerusalem, they're talking of "the Premiers' Club" tripping over the humps in the Persian carpet under which they've tried to sweep too much. The latest affair has made the public aware of the inner policy-making forum, wherein Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir takes far-reaching decisions with his two Labour colleagues - Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. There are those who see them in the category of bookends: if one falls so do the others.

The injured reaction of other inner cabinet members at being left out of things, produced an *ad hoc* "Defence Ministers' Guild", comprising the trio - Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and Ministers-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman and Moshe Arens, with the noisiest exchanges between Ezer and Peres.

Both Ezer and Arik have since gone public, Ezer on TV's *Moked* programme echoing political science professor Yehoshua Dror's criticism of "a primitive policy-making process." Arik, for his part, used *Ma'ariv* to compare unfavourably current practices with his own "full reporting to fellow ministers" on his Iranian arms deals in 1982. Arik's "full reporting to fellow ministers" during the Lebanon war will, of course, long be remembered...

PROF. DROR also raised the multi-million dollar question - whether private arms dealers have been dragging their political pals into various adventures. To mention the two making current headlines: Al Schwimmer is a long-time Peres confidant and Ya'acov Nimrod - a friend since childhood of Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon and an intimate of Arik Sharon. Nimrod's close business association with Saudi arms tycoon Adnan Khashoggi may have provided one of the largest lumps under the above-mentioned Persian carpet.

WHY HAVE the Finance Minister's income tax boys suddenly started announcing their intention of tackling arms dealers? Where've they been all these years?

A NEW QUESTION haunting the corridors of power: did ex-foreign ministry director-general David Kimche indeed conjure up the idea of Israel's helping out as the go-between, in order to assuage any residual ill-feeling in Washington over the Jonathan Pollard spook plotter?

AS SHAMIR settles down at the premier's office, that capable duo - media advisor Avi Pazner and spokesman Yossi Achimeir have already begun to soften his image to help along the magic effect of incumbency.

PERES'S BOYS may be excused if they discern emulation of their pre-rotation scheduling to that adopted for Shamir - like the weekly day tour. There is certainly a harmonious working relationship between the two, with the Likud leader even shifting in Peres's direction, by telling *Die Welt* this week of his amenability to an international umbrella over direct negotiations with the Arabs.

## Arms under the Persian carpet

Public Faces / Mark Segal



Saudi arms tycoon Adnan Khashoggi and his wife at a Monaco Red Cross gala in 1983.



Al Schwimmer.



Ya'acov Nimrod.

AS I WAS told by Peres's dynamic media counsel Uri Savir, Peres has never turned down so many requests for foreign press interviews. One he did give lately was to a CBS TV team. It was for the U.S. network's Christmas programme featuring their chosen "Man of the Year" of various countries.

WHEN ECONOMICS and Planning Minister Gad Ya'acobi and Minister Arens discussed the fate of Bet-Shemesh Engines with Koor Industries chief Yehayahu Gavish, the latter said: "It's a pity not all ministers enjoy such good relations," with Arens quipping: "It's a mutual admiration society."

SHARON attacked the education ministry and Tel Aviv University at Sunday's cabinet meeting for financing the iconoclastic *Siman Kria* literary magazine. He even read out some poems, which he declared "anti-patriotic and treasonable," printed in recent issues.

THE RENEWAL, mid-week, of work at Hadera's "Pri-Ze" plant, brought two early phone calls to Knesset Labour and Social Services committee chairman Ora Namir. Finance Minister Moshe Nisim thanked her for her untiring efforts in finding a way out of the impasse; the works committee complimented her on having been the only MK to visit them, and help save their jobs.

AN INFORMAL body has been

formed to discuss how to update and streamline the workings of military censorship of the media. It includes Chief Censor Tat-Aluf (Brigadier) Yitzhak Shani, the PM's aide Avi Pazner, Rabin's aide Eltan Haber and Press Office director Dr. Israel Peleg. They deal with complaints flowing in about inequalities between foreigners and Israelis working for the overseas media, e.g. under existing rules, non-submission of material to the censor incurs prison sentences for locals. That's one reason we read all this in the foreign media.

BBC JERUSALEM correspondent Paul Reynolds must be keeping his bosses happy back at Bush House. In commenting on Mordechai Vanunu's treason trial, he remarked "Arab countries are still technically at war with Israel." Technically?

KNESSET FOREIGN Affairs and Defence Committee Chairman Abba Eban returned from a visit to Canada right into the midst of "Iranate", having a short time before enjoyed a triumphal return to his old Alma Mater, Cambridge University, where he delivered the 1985 (Sir Hersh) Lauterpacht lectures on "Diplomacy and the Role of Law." When asked "How long do moral considerations last in international affairs?", Eban quipped: "Five minutes."

Grumbles from former committee chairman Likudnik Ben-Elissar about Eban's overseas absences,

brought Labourite committee member Rabbi Menachem Hacohen to Eban's defence. After noting how Eban's eminence at home and abroad has enhanced the committee's standing, Hacohen knocked Ben-Elissar for the way he resisted convening the committee during the 1982 war, so as not to discomfit the government.

TWO LEADING U.S. political figures are due here in the coming week: Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy is to receive an honorary PhD from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His visit has already prompted speculation about his 1988 presidential campaign plans.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Prof. Jesse Kirkpatrick - mentioned as a likely Republican Vice-Presidential candidate - will definitely be coming for Sunday night's inauguration of The Jeanne Kirkpatrick Forum for National Leadership and National Policy at Tel Aviv University. So promises forum executive director Dan Patir, who says she's bringing husband, Dr. Eviatar Kirpatrick, former head of the American Political Science Association, and six leading American mayors.

She will deliver the keynote address at the opening session in the presence of President Chaim Herzog and Premier Shamir.

U.S. SENATOR Daniel Inouye (Dem. Hawaii) told Minister Ya'acobi at a Jerusalem Hilton dinner that efforts to reduce interest rates on Israel's debt burden to the U.S. will be part of a Congressional package, including Egypt, Turkey and Pakistan.

THE SOCIAL HIGHLIGHT of the 5th annual meeting of the Beth Hasefeth International Council was the buffet dinner given at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel by its president, Baron David de Rothschild for his 120 fellow members from eight countries. Also there were WZO/Jewish Agency chairman Arye Dubiz and mayor Shlomo (Chich) Lahat. The latter, on the morrow, held a City hall reception for the council. The meeting's theme - American Jewry - was illustrated by three exhibitions at the Diaspora Museum, opened by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, after which the guests went to the Kfar Shmaryahu home of Feige and Reuben Zimmerman for dinner.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR Alain Pierrot and his wife Jacqueline wowed the press corps with a "get-acquainted" party featuring this year's new crop of air-freighted Nouveau Beaujolais wine and delicious cheeses at their Jaffa residence, which used to be the seaside home of the infamous Mufti Haj Amin el-Husseini of Jerusalem.

AFTER TOURING the various medical centres and disabled soldiers Beit Halochem institutions which they support, the American B'nai Zion mission led by its chairman Sidney Wiener, visited an IDF base somewhere on the Golan Heights and heard a pep-talk from the Russian-born unit commander. Later, they were thrilled to hear from their "tour guide," B'nai Zion Israeli projects co-ordinator Asyara Rapoport, that they'd just met Rav-Seren Michael Steigitz, brother of Avital Sharansky, Israel's Mother of the Year.

## The righteous diplomat who defied orders

Mordechai Paldiel tells of one man's efforts to save Jews fleeing from the Nazis.

EFFORTS are currently under way by public and private figures (mainly in the U.S.) to persuade the Portuguese government to have a Portuguese citizen who was demoted and humiliated in 1940, posthumously rehabilitated. In May of that year, Aristides de Sousa Mendes was dismissed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for violating orders forbidding him, as Consul-General of Portugal in Bordeaux, France, to issue transit visas to stranded Jews, orders which came on the eve of France's capitulation to Nazi Germany.

Aristides de Sousa Mendes, born in 1885, was the son of a Portuguese supreme court justice. A professional career diplomat, in May 1940 he was his country's consul-general in Bordeaux. That month, with the German breakthrough in the Ardennes and the collapse of the Anglo-French front in northern France, the number of refugees fleeing the battle zone to the relative security of the south increased significantly.

The majority sought entry to Spain, then to Lisbon in Portugal, from which they hoped to leave Europe by ship.

In order to cross the Spanish frontier, the refugees needed a Portuguese entry or transit visa. However, on May 10, 1940, when the German invasion of the Low Countries and France began, the Portuguese government banned the further passage of refugees through its territory and instructed its consular representatives in France not to issue visas to those seeking temporary shelter in Portugal, and to Jews in particular. (Some entry visas were subsequently granted, but only on a selective basis to a chosen few, and after much delay.)

All passage through the Spanish border for refugees came to a sudden halt, creating a congestion of refugees in Bordeaux, the last major French city close to the Spanish frontier, where some 30,000 persons - a third of them Jews - found themselves stranded.

For lack of choice, most refugees took up residence on the city streets. Close to 10,000 Jews settled down in the city centre, many of them near the great synagogue - others, in front of the Portuguese legation. Thus they passed several sleepless nights. Rabbi Haim Kruger was among them, having arrived in Bordeaux from Brussels, whence he had fled from Poland.

AGAINST this grim background, Mendes, on one of his occasional fact-finding tours of the city, met the rabbi as the latter was preparing to pass another night on the streets. Rabbi Kruger relates that Mendes, touched by the rabbi's plight, invited him to the Portuguese legation whose facilities he then placed at his disposal. The rabbi described his recent travails - escape from Poland to Belgium, thence to Bordeaux, and sadly remarked: "If we should be trapped here, I don't know what will happen to us." He implored Mendes to grant entry visas to the stranded Jews outside.

The following day the rabbi reiterated his plea on behalf of his fellow Jews. Mendes's aide cautiously reminded his superior of the government's new policy. Responding to the rabbi's pleas, he emphasized, would constitute a breach of government instructions. Mendes replied that he was prepared to issue entry visas for the rabbi and his family but could not, without his government's assent, extend this to other Jewish refugees. The rabbi, however, could not be placated.

After reflection, Mendes announced that he had reversed his previous decision and was prepared to grant entry visas to anyone seeking them. Meantime a large crowd had gathered outside the Portuguese legation so Mendes asked the rabbi's help in lining up the people with passports at the ready.

"I sat with him a full day without food and sleep and helped him stamp thousands of passports with Portuguese visas," the rabbi relates, adding, "He did not eat, nor sleep until late at night. And during this short time he issued several thousand visas until the enemy approached Bordeaux and we were forced to flee to Spain."

According to another report, Mendes's volte-face occurred immediately after he had seen his government's renewed instructions concerning refugees. Mendes was particularly pained at the singling out of Jews for the visa denial.

Mendes's reaction to this, as reported by his nephew Cesar Mendes, came in a speech to his staff. "My government has denied all applica-



Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul-general in Bordeaux, France, was stripped of his position and ostracized after helping thousands of refugees, mostly Jews, escape the advancing Nazis.

tions for visas to any refugees. But I cannot allow these people to die. Many are Jews and our constitution says that the religion, or the politics of a foreigner shall not be used to deny him refuge in Portugal. I am going to issue a visa to anyone who asks for it - regardless of whether or not he can pay."

Then, turning in the direction of his wife, he continued: "I know that Mrs. de Sousa Mendes agrees with me. Even if I am dismissed, I can only act as a Christian, as my conscience tells me."

Word of the consul's magnanimity had already spread like wildfire throughout the city as Jews and others who had reasons to fear the Nazis (political refugees from Germany and former combatants in the Spanish Civil War) sought the consul's aid.

To accommodate this huge influx, Mendes threw his home open to the refugees. Cesar Mendes relates seeing people of all ages, including pregnant women and sick people, sitting on the floor and leaning against the walls outside the consulate. "They had waited for days and nights on the street... They neither ate nor drank for fear of losing their place in the line... They did not wash themselves... They did not change their clothes and they did not shave... My uncle got ill, exhausted and had to lie down."

"Moise Alías, another witness and recipient of Mendes's charity notes: 'It seems to me that it was due to divine intervention that such a person was to be found at the right time in the right place.'"

THE REACTION of the Portuguese government was not long in coming. Upon learning of Mendes's insubordination, it ordered his immediate recall. Two official emissaries were dispatched from Lisbon to accompany him home. On its way to the Spanish border, the party stopped in Bayonne, a city which came under the jurisdiction of the Bordeaux consulate. There, the local consul, heeding his government's instructions rather than those of Mendes, his immediate superior in Bordeaux, was refusing visa requests by petitioning Jews.

When Mendes learned of this, he remonstrated with the Bayonne vice consul. According to an eyewitness report Mendes asked the vice consul: "Why don't you help these people?" The latter retorted: "I have received instructions from Lisbon not to grant any visas, especially to Jews. I am carrying out my superior's instructions."

Enraged, Mendes countered: "I have not yet been removed from my position. I am still your superior." With these words he walked over to the vice consul's desk and gathered up the necessary seals and rubber stamps for the visas. No one could stop him, not even the two emissaries from Lisbon. Then, summoning the vice consul, Mendes ordered him: "Go and tell these people [outside] to come to the chancellery... I am going to give them visas."

The visas were unique documents and had never been issued before slips of paper, with the consulate seal and the following inscription: "The Portuguese government requests the Spanish government the courtesy of allowing the bearer to pass freely through Spain. He is a refugee from the European conflict en route to Portugal." Mendes spent a full day in the Bayonne legation issuing such visas.

The following morning Mendes and his entourage proceeded to the Spanish frontier. Arriving at the

town of Biarritz, Mendes was surprised to discover that the Spanish authorities, evidently on cue from Portugal to Spanish officials, had closed the border to all refugees producing Portuguese visas issued in Bordeaux. Rabbi Kruger, who was present, relates what ensued.

"As we were standing and imploring the border police, the consul appeared and told us to wait a while as he wanted to talk to them. After an hour or two he personally opened the frontier gate and all those who presented a visa issued by him were allowed through. From there we boarded a train going straight to Lisbon."

Another account has Mendes taking the refugees to a different frontier post on the assumption that the Spanish government had not bothered to relay its new instructions to the border authorities closer than the Biarritz area, where the refugees were concentrated. In this, Mendes proved to be right.

UPON HIS RETURN to Lisbon, the government, fuming at Mendes's insubordination, began exploring the possibility of pressing charges against him. Meantime, he was summarily dismissed from the ministry of foreign affairs with all retirement and severance benefits suspended.

Mendes countered by appealing directly to the government to have him reinstated. In a memorandum to the supreme court and the National Assembly, he also requested a new hearing on his case - to no avail.

Burdened with the onerous task of feeding a family including 13 children, and with no other means at his disposal, Mendes sank into poverty. As his situation worsened, he sold his ancient family estate in Cabanas de Viriato. The Hias organization did what it could to mitigate his suffering and two of his children were helped to relocate and start new lives in the U.S.

In 1954, he died - forgotten, heart-broken and impoverished (his wife had died earlier, in 1948). Years later, through the efforts of his daughter Joanna in the U.S., he was posthumously honoured as a Righteous Gentile by Yad Vashem.

Mendes constantly mentioned his religious beliefs as the mainspring of his actions. In one conversation, he said: "My desire is to be with God against man rather than with man against God."

After his dismissal, he told Rabbi Kruger (whom he met for a third time, in Lisbon): "If thousands of Jews can suffer because of one Catholic (i.e. Hitler), then surely it is permitted for one Catholic to suffer for so many Jews." He added: "I could not have acted otherwise, and I therefore accept all that has befallen me with love."

John Abrachas, a son of the late Mendes and a U.S. citizen, is at present engaged in a public campaign to have his late father fully rehabilitated by the present government in Portugal.

Even if one can appreciate a government's insistence that administrative norms and regulations be meticulously adhered to for the sake of order and efficient administration, one is still puzzled by the harshness of the punishment and the consistent refusal of the authorities in Portugal to reconsider their original stance, 46 years after the event, in light of everything we now know about the Holocaust.

## A private lesson Teddy Arnold eavesdrops

THE other day, I spent some hours at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem and came away entirely unimpressed.

It's my lack of imagination. I just cannot imagine six million dead. Or 60 million. Or 60,000. At a pinch, I can imagine 600, because this is the most I have ever seen - or smelled - in the course of a single day. No, I did not throw up. Or lose my appetite. Or my sleep. *C'est la guerre*, such is war. I did not even resolve never again, under any circumstances, to kill another human being.

I have had a happy life, but not exactly a pampered one. I am very lucky to have reached my four score and 10 years more or less in one piece. So it is with some consternation that I now admit that the most shattering experience of my life was at second hand.

No, I have not seen *Shoah*, nor shall I. I have not read any books about the Holocaust. Nor shall I. I have had my own private course about the Holocaust, back in the Fifties, and it took all of 45 minutes.

IT was a hot summer afternoon in Haifa, and I was waiting for a bus to the Ahuza quarter. Two people, a man and a woman, joined me in the queue, he in working clothes and with a lunch box, she with a shopping bag.

Superficially, they looked like everybody else, and yet there was something fey about them, an emanation, a miasma, something untraceable. They had obviously

met by chance and greeted each other as people do who have not seen each other for quite a while. They spoke the careful, grammatical Yiddish of people who are used to read and write in that language. They asked about each other's health and working conditions, but not about their families. When the bus came, I sat in front of them.

During the next 45 minutes - yes, with the wheezing jolopies of those days and innumerable stops it took 45 minutes - those two talked about one thing, and one thing only: A march they had been on, with many others, though few had arrived, in the winter of 1944/45, from a "work camp" in eastern Poland to some undisclosed point in Germany. The orders, issued to a simple German *feldwebel* (a sergeant-major) and a few men, were simple enough: Get them from here to there by foot.

How? Shoot all stragglers. It was a straightforward narrative: Dates, place-names, food if there was any, deaths, deaths, deaths. No hours. Nobody had a watch. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

This was a small group from a small town, and everybody knew everybody else by name. The two completed and corrected each other's story. The word most often used was *aveg-geharret*. Literally, this means "killed away," but there is no equivalent English expression. There is a certain happenstance, a characteristic casualness about the phrase.

"That was on the 14th. After we came out of X, they killed Itzkovitch away. He just kept stumbling, so they killed him away."

"And his little daughter. She was seven, I think."

"Rivkah? No. Her uncle, Salzman, carried her into Y. The next morning, the 15th, she couldn't get up, and Salzman was too weak to lift her, so they killed her away."

"That was a cold day, the 15th. They killed seven away, no, eight, between Y and Z."

And so it went. Cold. Slept in railway station. Frozen potato. *Aveg-geharret*. *Aveg-geharret*. *Aveg-geharret*. On and on.

We finally reached Ahuza, but not the end of that journey. Everybody got off, but me. I tried to comprehend that human bestiality has no bounds, but that there are limits to human capacity to suffer.

The driver looked in the mirror and said: "This is Ahuza. I don't go any further." I alighted. I had lost my reason. I was a wild beast. The only thing I wanted to do with my life was to feel the grips of a submachine gun in my hands and to put a bullet through the head of every German in this world, man, woman and child. I was ashamed of myself, and still am, but I could not help it.

What had struck terror in my heart was not the story. Like everybody else, I knew about the camps, and the death marches. It was their voices, without inflection, without

cadence - like the voices of clerks at the yearly stocktaking. It was not the dead who had driven me out of my mind - it was the living.

Living? They walked, they talked, presumably, they slept, worked and ate. But they were emotionally dead.

When I got off the bus, I tried hard to remember why I was there. I entered the nearest café and phoned the man I had come to meet.

"I'm sorry," I said. "I'm unable to come today. We'll be in touch." I did not recognize my own voice. I hung up before the man could ask me what was wrong.

The bus was still where I had left it. I bought a ticket, went to the railway station and boarded the next train home.

My wife said: "You're early. Have you had supper?"

"No, but thanks. I don't want any."

I'm going for a walk."

My wife said: "Just a minute. I'll come with you."

"I don't think you had better. Don't wait up."

My wife gave me a hurt look. I went for a very long walk, and when I got home, I had a very long shower. I soaped and rinsed, soaped and rinsed. I must have used up a cake of soap.

When I came to bed, my wife was asleep. I lay awake for a long time. I hope you will understand why I do not want to see *Shoah*. I have had all the Holocaust education I can take.



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at the Seminary of Judaic Studies, 6 Balfour St., Jerusalem

— Entrance fee: NIS 2 —

הסדרה האמריקאית



## FEATURES

**THE OTHER NIGHT**, when Jordan TV's Arabic news went on for so long that it became impossible for them to show the comedy scheduled for 8.30 p.m., a charming lass came on to the television screen: she explained what had happened, and pleaded with us very prettily to forgive the station for any inconvenience the breakdown in the schedule may have caused to its viewers.

Ah, but that was Jordan. Everybody knows that Jordan is a benighted Arab land lagging in development far behind ultra-civilized Israel. Besides, the Jordanians learned many of their codes of conduct from the decadent British, so apologizing to viewers is obviously a despicable hangover from colonialism.

Israel Television, I am proud to note, is completely above such obsolescent concepts as courtesy. Like Major Sergius in Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, our media service never apologizes and never explains. When no programmes appear for days on end, we are lucky to get a written notice - for some reason placed against a background that looks like a Persian magic carpet - informing us curtly that there will be neither Arabic nor Hebrew programmes. No reason is given: Perhaps because of the influence of the Shin Bet affair and the Iranian arms deal, I am beginning to suspect that remote, sinister and convoluted forces are responsible.

Can it be that the Shamir-Peres-Rabin troika consider it to be an inopportune time to appear on TV to explain exactly how far they went to do a favour to Ronnie in some far-off place with a strange-sounding name?

Another possible explanation is that Golan-Globus have organized the strike. I read on an economic page that they are strapped for ready cash, and I know that they have invested heavily in the cassette libraries obtainable at the video libraries: perhaps they are relying for some cash flow on the income from the hundreds of thousands of their cassettes that will be taken out from the libraries during the strike, so they got it launched?

Maybe the cinema owners are behind the strike. A keen cinema-goer, who despises the idiot box and loves the big, wide screen, complained to me indignantly that he couldn't get into a cinema to see a film he particularly wanted to see the other night because it was sold out. He said that such a thing had not happened to him in years. So the owners may be the villains.

What we do know is that there has been an appalling mess for many, many years, and that these relations are worse than those prevailing anywhere else in the country. Every now and then a group of workers called

## The power behind the blackout

Television / Philip Gillon

Coconuts, or perhaps a single Coconut who promised his wife to come home early so as to go to a party, or another one who doesn't like the news editor's tie, pulls the switch and closes the station down. Alternatively, management stage a lock-out, just to demonstrate to the workers, "Anything you can do, I can do better: I can do anything better than you."

As a result, morale at Television House is as low as a snake's belly. The quality of the so-called programmes, if they ever appear, shows that nobody is working with any pride, enthusiasm or imagination. No original Israeli work has been produced for months.

In such circumstances, in any other television station in the world, both gangs - management and workers - would long since have been given the order of the boot. Ah, but this is Israel: we don't do unkind things like that. An alternative solution is to set up a competing station, so as to break ITV's monopolistic hold on the air-waves. This is what the Ministry of Communications is trying to do. Clever, eh?

Of course, because we worship monopolies with even greater enthusiasm than our forefathers displayed in their adoration of the golden calf, it is an odds-on certainty that we will hand over the second channel to the very people - both management and workers - who have made such a shocking mess of the first.

Perhaps the time has come for viewers to undertake direct action. Let us undertake that from now on we will never look at ITV again. We can get all the news we need from Educational Television's *New Evening* programme at five o'clock, and all the documentaries, entertainment and escapism we require from Jordan, Middle East TV and Educational TV.

Perhaps it would be more effective simply to refuse to pay our licence fees for television programmes we do not get. "No taxation without something on the screen!" should be our battle cry, as we launch an Israeli version of the Boston Tea Party.

OF COURSE, we can only afford to be so independent of Israel Television



Good hours on Educational TV.

sion because we have those two stalwarts, Jordan TV and Middle East TV, to provide us with entertainment, day after day, month after month, year after year, as reliable as Big Ben.

Jordan TV has many good things going. Pride of place must go to the C.P. Snow serial, *Strangers and Brothers*, which was devoted this week to the impact of the Hiroshima bomb on the liberal British scientists. Then they have *Yes, Prime Minister*, which I can see with enjoyment again and again. Among their good thrillers are *The Great Bookie Robbery*, an Australian show in which both bobbies and thieves are very tough indeed, and our old friends *Dempsey and Makepeace*. They have very good comedies. And films.

I cannot pick up Middle East TV, but their listed programmes look very good to me. Their sports coverage must delight former Americans. Somebody phoned me to say that this week they had an outstanding film about Gilbert and Sullivan.

Educational TV provides a film every Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 p.m., the good news programme at 5.30 p.m., and several other shows. Israel's children's programme - not on strike - has at least one gem, *The Return of the Antelope*, on Tuesdays

at 6 p.m. This is one of the best children's serials I have seen.

One way or another, it is possible for a TV addict to survive without Israel Television. We can always supplement these life-saving stations with cassettes from the video library, if we have video recorders.

ONE OF THE last shows I saw before the strike began was *Entrance Fee*, which was devoted this week to *The Forties Syndrome*. Menashe Raz handled the show very pleasantly and smoothly, and all the participants in the programme were very frank and interesting.

They brought out very vividly the way in which both men and women reaching the age of 40 tend to become dissatisfied with their spouses, their families and their careers. In all these fields they have achieved at least a part of what, when they were in their twenties, they envisaged would be their objectives. At 40 they become bored and wonder where they go from there - they feel that they are still at the height of their powers, and want something more out of life than they are getting.

For some reason Raz did not investigate the question of these being the years of sexual experimentation, when some husbands and wives go in search of fresh fields and pastures new. It is a time when infidelities ruin marriages. Perhaps he laid off the subject because the previous programme had dealt with divorce, and to some extent with this critical age group.

Personally, I think that the doctors are to blame for the problem of the forties. A few decades ago, life expectancy was the mid-fifties or at most the early sixties. With their passing so imminent, people in their forties thought that they might as well go on to the end with the same jobs, wives, families and personalities that they already had: the potential gains did not warrant the immense effort needed to change things.

Now, at 40, the man or woman looks ahead to at least 30 more years - even longer than he or she has already lived, if we exclude the learning years of childhood. So, of course, the prospect of continuing the same thing as one has been doing seems to be very boring. Clearly, from what we heard, it is a very good idea to change one's occupation. A man should also change his physique, and not allow himself to go fat and flabby. The woman too needs exercise to keep looking and feeling that these are the best years of her life. Should they also change their sexual partners around? I suppose the answer to that one varies from person to person: anyway, I won't try to be a guru about that one.

1980s, which inevitably had environmental repercussions for Israel's densely-populated coastline. Hill set up a multi-disciplinary team of experts who completed the task in only two months. Today, that research is viewed as a landmark in Israel's environmental policy and as Israel's first environmental impact statement. The report can be credited, at least in part, with the fact that the adverse effects of the Hadera plant are minimal.

During the last five years, Hill headed a team of experts undertaking the major evaluation study of Project Renewal. Once again, Moshe Hill was making not only a methodological contribution, but a statement of values and commitments as well: a belief in greater social equality and optimism about the capacity of public policy to help the disadvantaged and give them the tools to help themselves.

Prof. Moshe Hill met his death in the country he had left and whose policies he opposed so much. Ironically, he had gone to South Africa to volunteer his time to the Zionist Federation in order to persuade the Jews there to immigrate to Israel.

RACHELLE ALTERMAN

## APPRECIATION

mind. But he was not destined to direct it.

Fighter pilots are a special breed, for it is these young warriors in the sky who create tactics, operational concepts and strategy. This was true at the beginning of air combat in 1914, and it is true today.

Air power cannot be wielded or developed but by the genius of its necessarily young aces. As in music, mathematics and certain sports, the peak of one's career is reached early. Asher was such a young genius of air power.

He fought a long last silent battle against a stealthy foe who could not be shot down, and died two months ago, at age 44, shortly after being appointed chief of the Air Staff.

It took other nations generations of military experience to produce great warriors in the air, and it is not the smallest of the miracles which have accompanied the restored Israel and the Zionist revolution that Israel accomplished this in 20 years. Of these warriors, Snir was unequalled.

DANIEL BEN YA'ACOV

mother dead and his sister badly wounded. His father had died while Morris was still a young boy. So the young man in his twenties had to leave shepherding and return home to care for his sister. Later, he enrolled at university and was encouraged to pursue his studies in urban planning overseas, at the University of Pennsylvania.

Hill's doctoral dissertation proposed a new method for evaluating public policy proposals. His method, which has since been adopted as standard procedure by urban planners in many parts of the world, was called the Goal Achievement Matrix. Previously, it was customary to evaluate plans or public policies entirely from the point of view of the responsible agency. Hill's method suggested that the goals of all groups of citizens affected by the plan should become part of the evaluation. Without stating it overtly, Hill was making an intensely ideological statement: he was seeking to instill more social justice in the way decisions are made by public officials. He saw these principles as an integral part of the Zionist message, and in later years, when he felt that these principles were being eroded, Moshe Hill typically decided to take a stand: in 1973 he helped found the Movement for Civil Rights.

The second time Moshe came on aliyah, in 1968, he was married with two small children. Today his wife, Dr. Judy Hill, is principal of the Haifa Experimental Open School. Moshe Hill decided to become a pioneer once more, this time at the Technion, where he took on the task of promoting the new concept of urban and regional planning which had been accepted in English-speaking countries 20-30 years earlier. In only two years he achieved the establishment of Israel's first programme for training urban and regional planners, which also draws students from developing countries.

In 1972, Hill was asked to advise on the selection of a site for the largest electric power plant of the

## Moshe Hill, the concerned urban planner

THREE MONTHS have passed since Prof. Moshe (Morris) Hill of the Technion was killed in a road accident while driving in South Africa, his country of origin, where he was on a brief visit. He was only 56. Moshe Hill will be remembered as the person who almost single-handedly established higher education in urban planning in Israel, as well as much of Israel's urban policy research.

In 1955, Hill left South Africa to join Kibbutz Tzora. Two years later, tragedy intervened when a driving accident in South Africa left his

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## A mother's burden



Rebecca at the well.

(From an etching by Doré)

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proud of the prominent women in our families.

Her independent spirit is expressed not merely in flaunting with pride the name of her famous grandmother, but in the one-word reply she gave when asked whether she would go with that man who came to fetch her to be a wife to Isaac. *Elech!* she said. "I will go!" And with Rashi and the midrash we read: "*Elech!* Yes, I will go, even if you do not wish me to go!"

This short dialogue in the early life of Rebecca served the rabbis many centuries later as a basis for important laws. One, that the consent of the bride must be secured prior to marriage, and two, that a son or daughter may disobey parents when they object to his or her going up to the land of Israel.

LATER on, when troubled during her pregnancy, as the twins were struggling within her, she does not make her husband share her worries, but goes by herself "to inquire of the Lord." Even when told that she was bearing twins and what they will turn out to be, she kept the prophecy from Isaac and did not tell him what she was told, which could have changed greatly the entire course of events.

She kept the information to herself, just as the painful struggling of the twins occurred all within her. In a moment of despair she cried out: "Why do I live?" (25:22). What made her so desperate was, according to the rabbis, the fact that whenever she passed by the school of Tora the embryonic Jacob ran towards it, struggling to come forth, and when she passed an idolatrous temple, Esau ran towards it. In addition to the physical pain caused by the struggling, she despaired because of fear that her child was going to be a person who will forever struggle and waver, not being able to make up his mind whether he wishes to go to the house of Tora or the idolatrous temple. When told that she was bearing twins, she was comforted, knowing that at least this bitter religious struggle would not occur within one person.

A modern rabbi (M. Hachohen in *Al Ha-tora*) asks: Esau who was situated, as we know, in his mother's womb to come out first, blocked the way of Jacob from coming forth when Rebecca was passing the house of Tora, but why didn't he, Esau, go out when passing the idolatrous temple towards which he as struggling to go? The answer is that in order to stop Jacob, Esau would often go even against his own interest. He would refrain from doing what was good for him, only to make sure that Jacob should not get to the house of Tora.

Rebecca's background, so different from Isaac's, and her keeping to herself, explain the differences she

and Isaac developed in their relationship to the children, who represented two distinct types. Esau was not just a hunter (*Zayad*), but a *yodea zayid*, translated: "a cunning hunter," understood by the commentators to mean a man understanding how to deceive, or ensnare. "Now Isaac loved Esau because there was game in his mouth" (25:28); Esau knew how to mislead his father into thinking that he was an ultra-pious person by asking him questions such as how to take tithe from salt or straw, of which of course no tithe is taken at all. He wished to impress his father that he belonged to the "I am *frummer* (more pious) than thou" crowd.

Jacob on the other hand, was an *ish tam*, a man of integrity, whose "heart and lips speak the same language."

Esau was also a "man of the field," skilled in field work. No wonder then that such two qualities combining extra religious piety with farming skills enthralled Isaac, who saw in Esau the fulfillment of his life's ideal type: a religious *halutz*.

Isaac coming from the home of the man-of-faith Abraham, tended to believe people, not realizing that he was being cynically deceived. He believed that if Esau were blessed with the blessing of the land, it would also be a blessing for Jacob, who dwelled in the tents of learning. That would assure the ideal society marked by the harmonious prosperous co-existence of the material and the spiritual.

Rebecca, having grown up in the practical and cunning world of Bethuel and Laban, knew better. She saw "the field," the world of industry and production represented by Esau, as a godless cynical world where values were sold for a red pottage and where there would be no room for the younger more idealistic brother. She sought a subtle way to intimate this conviction to Isaac, without coming out openly against her own son Esau. Her advice to Jacob to disguise and thus receive Isaac's blessing, was done, (according to 19th century commentator S.R. Hirsch) not to deceive Isaac, but to show him that he is capable of being deceived. In the course of the dramatic events, this realization indeed dawned on Isaac at the moment that he smelled the fragrance of a different kind of field, "a field which the Lord has blessed" (27:27). When the time came for the blessing, Isaac already knew upon whom he was endowing it, and because of this, not because of fatalistic resignation, he re-acknowledged Jacob's blessing by saying (verse 33): *gum baruch yhiye*. "Yea, and he shall stay blessed."

The Tora is male and patriarchally oriented, but in this particular context, it is our Mother Rebecca and not our Father Isaac who emerges the winner.

## Asher Snir, gentleman and fighter pilot

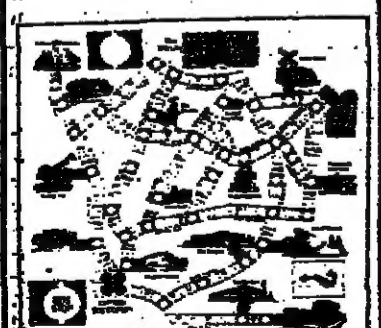
THERE ARE some men with souls so different that they stand out, often enough not even aware of the impact they have on others. Such was the late Brigadier General Asher Snir, chief of the Air Staff.

A great fighter pilot, a top-notch general, a keen student of history - the key to all strategy - and a true gentleman, he moved always in the aura of this unique quality of soul.

Since it is not Israel's custom to confer public glory upon its fighter aces, he fought in anonymity. It has been said that in any other country he would have garnered the greatest military honours. This is not strictly correct, for by his presence he conferred honour upon the air force, the defence establishment and the nation. Among the few to whom the dany owe so much, he was singular.

Like every great strategist, he had a future battle of decision in his

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# A new struggle for Sharansky

Anatoly Sharansky speaks out about the new Soviet curbs on emigration, the Israeli government's policy on the Soviet-Jewry question, the need for world Jewry to show support for Andrei Sakharov, the PLO's attempt to co-opt the language of human rights, and other issues in this wide-ranging interview with Louis Rapoport.



SOME 10 months after he arrived in Israel, reunited with his wife after nine years in prison, Natan Sharansky, who never yielded to the Soviet authorities, has learned that his battles are far from over.

Fame — especially when it comes to someone who has offered a moral example to the world — automatically invites attack, entrapment, intrigue. It can come from ostensible friends, as well as from obvious enemies: a reporter who distorts and misquotes; a Jewish organization leader who uses the ex-prisoner's name to raise funds but lets the word out to fellow bigshots that "Sharansky's too outspoken"; an Israeli government official who tries to dampen efforts to intensify the public campaign for Soviet Jewry; or a PLO surrogate who tries to co-opt the language and leadership of the struggle for human rights.

But Sharansky is unflappable, the essence of the "indomitable spirit" he has been called so often. His mind is sharply focused, and he will not be diverted by what Nietzsche called "flies in the marketplace," petty or poisonous people who try to impede a man ennobled by a higher calling. And Sharansky has a mission: He is determined to make the issue of freedom for Soviet Jews not a narrow concern of world Jewry but a problem the whole world must face — and face now.

In an extensive interview this week with *The Jerusalem Post* and *Yedioth Aharonot*, Sharansky wanted to emphasize the new Soviet emigration laws, even more restrictive than the former measures, which prevent hundreds of thousands of Jews (as well as Volga Germans, Armenians, and other minorities) from joining their families in Israel and elsewhere in the West. He also wanted to concentrate on the critically important subject of how to change international — including Israeli — perceptions of the Soviet Jewry issue, to gain for it the importance given to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, for example. But he recognized that there were other questions — sometimes irritating, peripheral ones — that also should be answered, if only to get them out of the way once and for all. For example, how Sharansky walked into a PLO trap.

IN mid-November, just after Avital gave birth to their first child, Israeli Arab journalist Adil Abu Raya phoned Sharansky several times at Misgav Ladach hospital and asked him to meet with a "colleague" of his for five minutes to discuss "a human rights case," the deportation order against East Jerusalem editor Akram Haniye. Though his privacy was being violated, Sharansky finally agreed to receive a packet of information about the case from Abu Raya and his colleague — after Abu Raya had said to him, "What's the matter, don't you want to meet with me because I'm an Arab?" After Sharansky consented, Abu Raya asked if he could also bring along a *Ma'ariv* journalist. Sharansky said he wasn't giving a press conference, merely receiving material.

The next day, the journalist and his colleague came to Sharansky's office. The colleague turned out to be Feisel al-Husseini, who is considered by many to be one of the main PLO-affiliated political leaders in the territories. Sharansky did not know his visitor, nor did his name ring any bells. Husseini, whose father was the Palestinian military chief during the War of Independence (a cousin was the Mufti of Jerusalem — the pro-Nazi Haj Amin al-Husseini), says he told Sharansky right away about his political viewpoint, that he supported "Chairman Arafat and the PLO."

According to Husseini, Sharansky then said that Arafat was not a man of peace, citing the PLO's terrorist actions against civilians. According to Sharansky, Husseini had said that Haniye, the editor, was connected to the "moderate part of the PLO..." I stopped him and said there are no moderates in the PLO, and cited the PLO Covenant and the recent attack near the Western Wall (in which the father of a soldier was killed). When Husseini asked him about the deportation order against Haniye, Sharansky said he wasn't familiar with the ordinance on which the case was based. There was nothing else to talk about, and the encounter soon ended.

But the PLO man and his intermediary had not come for nothing. (Husseini told me this week that he went to see Sharansky because it was "important for me to learn about the leaders and heroes" of the Jews.) This was a publicity opportunity, one that probably had been planned in advance. A *Ma'ariv* West Bank correspondent, Avinoam Bar-Yosef, published a totally distorted version of the story, includ-

ing a misquotation that Sharansky considered Haniye a "moderate." The page-one story was presented as if Sharansky had agreed to a clandestine meeting with Husseini. ("Husseini's meeting was less distorted than the reporter's," Sharansky says.)

Sharansky realized immediately that the PLO "was trying to use me," and the next day, he issued a sharply worded statement saying he would never have met with anyone identified with the PLO, which he called "a criminal terror organization dedicated to the destruction of Israel." At the same time, far-right nationalists, like Rabbi Haim Druckman, who had not called Sharansky to ask him about the incident, were telling the press that Sharansky had done a deplorable thing, meeting with the enemy.

Reaping the publicity bonanza, Husseini issued a statement to the press, deriding the internationally acclaimed human rights hero, saying that he was in reality a hypocrite, a little nothing. Husseini's ringing phrase, "Great Man Turns Small," was picked up by sympathetic headline writers who saw in it some profound, masterly assessment of the Russian Jew, who, some on the left seem to feel, is greatly overrated.

Sharansky's perhaps overly strident language in condemning the PLO apparently provided some liberal-leftists with mud to sling against him. They never condemned the so-called "PLO moderates" for setting a trap, for using human rights in as cynical a fashion as the Soviets use the words "peace and freedom." Rather, all the blame fell on Sharansky.

"I've always thought, and still do, that we have to have normal contact with our neighbors, to discuss issues between right and left, religious and secular, Arab and Jew," says Sharansky. "This was a disappointing experience... the most disappointing was not Husseini, not even the *Ma'ariv* correspondent — I've grown accustomed to the fact that many correspondents write what they want to hear — but the behavior of Abu Raya, who said to me not directly connected to the PLO. The moment he had an opportunity for contact, he tried to use it to promote the PLO..."

**"It must be made clear that this is not a narrowly defined issue, solely a Jewish problem, but a world problem."**

"And that's a real problem. On the one hand we must have normal contacts [with the Palestinians], on the other, we should do nothing to help an organization with terrorist aims by giving them a publicity opportunity."

Sharansky compared the incident to the way in which the Soviet Union tries to use the democratic institutions of the West. The PLO will now claim to be "fighting for human rights," and will find many outlets inside and outside Israel for their latest line.

The attempt to co-opt the human rights struggle by authoritarian people pretending to believe in democratic principles is no surprise to anyone who has lived under a Communist regime. Husseini was trying to maintain that he was a human rights activist too, just like Sharansky. "What's important out of all this," Sharansky says, "is not to let the PLO get away with this misuse of the language of humanitarianism."

He regrets that it now makes it far more difficult for him to learn about the Palestinian position. Dialogue is essential, he says, but not with terrorists. He fell into a publicity trap — exactly the trap he has been warning the West about, in giving too many public relations opportunities to Gorbachev.

THERE IS a different kind of sniping at Sharansky as well, stories from simple people who think he's getting \$3,000 a month from the Jewish Agency, or \$1 million or \$6 million for writing his book. Is it anybody's business at all how much he got for his book contract? "No," says Sharansky. "It's nobody's business. It's much less than was written in the papers, but of course, much more than I used to get as an engineer in the Soviet Union. I don't get money from the Jewish Agency. I don't get money from President Reagan — as one Israeli newspaper reported. I use the advance money on my book to live and to finance my activities."

In order to maintain his independence, he pays for his own trips, and does not accept money from the government or Jewish organizations. He turned down a \$1 million offer to do 30 or 40 lectures. "It's much more important for me to live with my wife and my family here in Israel. For those lectures and talks I have given, I did not make one dollar, because I'm not making a business of Soviet Jewry."

He has written half the book (in long-hand Russian), and must finish it in the spring to meet a full publishing schedule. He tries to keep it at every morning from 7:30 till 2:00, but his daughter Rachel interferes.

His private life is his private life, and he wants to keep it that way. A few days earlier, a very important American had called to say he'd be in Israel soon and that he wanted to see Rachel. Avital, who spoke to him, said, "Rachel isn't giving any interviews."

Sharansky himself remains very upbeat about Israel, despite its obvious drawbacks and problems: "The main thing for me is that I live in a state of Jews, which is an absolutely free society. I enjoy every day of living here, whether I was criticized on this day or not."

"BUT SHALL we come back to Soviet Jewry?" Sharansky keeps prodding. Everything we've been talking about so far is, indeed, peripheral — he wants to talk about Gorbachev, not about himself as a "personality."

One of the few issues on which Israelis of various persuasions seem to be united, Sharansky says, is the belief that the *neshura* phenomenon — Soviet Jews opting for America — is what caused the Soviets to close the

citizens in every meaning of the word. This citizenship has always been extremely important to the struggling activists in the USSR. "But the reality is that our government does not want to do anything that might irritate the Soviet Union."

He displays a letter from the Interior Ministry's Department of Population Administration to a Hafia lawyer explaining why a request to issue Israeli passports to the Boris Chernobitsky family has been denied. (Chernobitsky, a leading Moscow activist, is a former Prisoner of Zion who is still struggling for an exit visa.) Four reasons are listed including "concern for the foreign relations of the state that might be impaired."

In attracting Soviet Jews, Israel can't compete in a material sense, with the U.S. "But Israel is the spiritual home of the Jews, and Soviet Jews must feel that their home is concerned about them." Israel can also help reverse the dropout trend by undertaking some basic reforms. "The Jew from the Soviet Union, who leaves that awful bureaucratic society and decides to come to Israel" should be spared the bureaucratic monsters that await him at Ben-Gurion Airport, Sharansky says. Absorption should be on a personal level, family "adopting" family, and the red tape must be eliminated. He has seen close-up how difficult it is to get Israeli institutions to reform themselves. Criticism has been voiced for many years, and nothing has changed. "But something must be done."

The road from Moscow to Israel must be made smoother. "He feels that independent groups led by former refuseniks like Jerusalem's Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, headed by Yosef Mendelovich — are on the right track in devising new approaches towards absorption, but unfortunately the authorities do not cooperate with them."

Sharansky feels that the Israeli government's philosophy towards the Soviet Jewry struggle is fossilized, that the general attitude was forged in the pre-State era of Aliya Bet (when survivors of World War II were brought to Palestine clandestinely), and in the early years of massive immigration. "Quiet diplomacy" was the watchword, and this approach remains dominant.

"Any suggestion to increase public pressure today is met with expressions of concern about rocking the boat," Sharansky says. The Israeli government approach appears to him to be an attempt to placate the Soviets, to say, "look, we don't want to interfere in your internal affairs," and then to expect the Soviets to reciprocate by easing the curbs on Jews.

The Israeli government doesn't seem to understand that the only approach that will work with the Soviets is to show strength, to mount a campaign to link international economic and other agreements to the granting of freedom of emigration

for Soviet Jews. That, in Sharansky's view, is the only course of action to follow. "Gorbachev realizes, much better than did his predecessors, that only Western help can save the Soviet economy."

That's the lever. Israel does not have enough power for the "quiet approach" to work. We don't have arguments that will persuade the Soviet Union. Whatever we may tell them, they know that it is very serious to let Jews go, that it is a threat to the authoritarian system.

IN HIS RECENT meetings with "establishment" Jewish leaders in Europe, America and Israel, Sharansky has been reminding them that a decade ago, when he was spokesman of the movement in Moscow, these leaders were asking him in telephone conversations to use his closeness to Andrei Sakharov to benefit refuseniks, to have him make statements on their behalf. Several times, Sharansky asked for Sakharov's help, and the dissident leader always lent the dignity of his name to Jewish causes. "His name meant more than all of our names put together, and it was immediately on the front page of *The New York Times*, and so it helped publicize our campaign... but now, when Sakharov is in trouble, why shouldn't we publicly express our thanks and concern about him, thank him for helping Soviet Jewry?" Instead, the establishment is worried that it will be seen as "interference in Soviet internal affairs because he is a dissident."

Sharansky hears private expressions of sympathy for Sakharov from these establishment figures, but there is always a "but."

When he was a member of Yuri Orlov's Helsinki Watch Group monitoring Soviet compliance (or rather, non-compliance) with the 1975 accords on human rights, Sharansky never signed petitions about how the Soviet system should be changed, but only about violations of human rights — because, as a Jewish activist, he wanted only to leave the Soviet Union, not to reform it.

"On the other hand, as part of the new freedom that my Zionist beliefs brought me, I felt free to express sympathy with those other peoples whose rights were being violated. Now that I'm in Israel, I still hold that view. I realize that the State of Israel, as the state, cannot take absolutely the same position. Nevertheless... I saw in England and elsewhere in Europe, that the campaign for Soviet Jewry didn't reach beyond the Jewish communities. They are afraid to collaborate on this issue with anyone who's not Jewish."

"It must be made clear that this is not a narrowly defined issue, solely a Jewish problem, but a world problem..." Of course there are other oppressed minorities in the USSR — Sharansky worked for them, and wrote about them — but the Soviet Jewry issue is the only one of massive proportions. "And we must be ready to speak to

the world about it. That's why we must be open to contacts with non-Jews... That's why we must at least show our support for people who struggled for Soviet Jewry like Andrei Sakharov. And not to think that each time Sakharov's name is mentioned it hurts the cause of Soviet Jewry..."

Sharansky does not believe the Russian people will ever follow the path that the Sakharovs and Orlovs have taken. If they ever do, attain freedom of choice, they are much more likely to pursue Solzhenitsyn's vision of a neo-Stavropole, neo-Christian, theocratic Russia. This is a genuine "internal affair" of the Russian people, Sharansky says. But to show support for a Sakharov is not only a moral obligation for the Jewish people everywhere, but a practical one as well — to be open to contacts with non-Jews on the issue of Soviet Jewry can only be of benefit, for it is necessary to broaden the struggle.

Sharansky draws a comparison with South Africa, which has become "a really major international issue." While condemning apartheid as totally reprehensible, he says that "if you look at what's happening in the Soviet Union, it's at least as bad. In South Africa the blacks have passports and are confined to certain places. In the Soviet Union, everybody has a passport, and if you show the slightest hint of dissent, then you will definitely live where they want you to live... it's even more disgusting than South Africa. Yet the campaign for Soviet Jewry could never even reach such a level as the South Africa issue. It was always a closed Jewish issue — and this has been a serious mistake."

It must be shown to the West that the best barometer of Soviet sincerity in international accords is the fate of 400,000 Jews who have expressed a desire to emigrate, and who are not allowed to leave.

"We do have friends like Secretary of State Shultz, but we must be able to go further... We must say that there can be no trust between East and West until an understanding is reached on the human rights question, the Jewish question."

At the Reykjavik summit, despite

appearances that the Soviet Jewish question was near the top of the agenda, "in the serious negotiations, it was made quite clear to the Russians that there was no direct linkage." There was progress. A list of 11,000 refuseniks was given; to Shultz. "But again, who gave him this list? It was not Israel. It was given by the Anti-Defamation League, an American organization. Our Israeli officials said, 'We are speaking only for 3,000 separated families.' So instead of speaking for repatriation of a broader number, they are helping the Soviet Union by this."

At Reykjavik, the Soviets also appeared to be softening their attitude towards the Jewish question: Soviet officials met with some of the divided families, and of course, there was positive press coverage. But this was just evidence that the Soviets have adopted a more image-conscious posture on Soviet Jewry. And the new Soviet emigration laws are part of the same deceit.

"The Soviets admitted to some bureaucratic blunders and then said that a new, very clear, very good law was coming into effect, and all misunderstandings would be solved... and in the Western press, it was written that one of the signs of Gorbachev's liberalism was this new law," Sharansky says, his voice dripping with irony.

The new law is very bad. The beginning sounds very good: "Soviet citizens, foreign citizens, stateless persons may enter or leave the USSR irrespective of their social standing, property status, race, nationality, sex, education, or religious beliefs." Exactly the kind of language one finds in the declarations on human rights.

"But then, leaving must be only to be reunited with close relatives, mother, father, sister, brother, children. That means that the majority of the 400,000 simply cannot apply. The overwhelming majority of Soviet Jews who came to Israel in the past could never have left the USSR under these new rules." Previously, even a distant relative, or a fictitious one ("Tel Aviv aunt" was the euphemism), could invite Soviet Jews to come to Israel.

Then there are other provisions for barring emigration — such as if they are privy to state secrets or if there are other reasons of state security. "Which means everybody."

Sharansky gives as an example a Minsk man who has been refused an exit visa since 1959. "Yes, he was in the army. He was a pilot. But he never saw a jet airplane — yet up to now, he's a refusenik."

Other grounds for refusal under the new law include "if it is against public order," or, "in the interests of safeguarding public order or the population's health or morality." Sharansky laughs at the absurdity of it.

"So it is an awful law. I think our government must react, because the primary victim is Soviet Jewry. Even the American Jewish establishment has already reacted — Morris Abram [of the National Conference for Soviet Jewry] made a statement. I'm still hoping our government will do so."

Sharansky said he would talk about the new Soviet play in the U.S. in the coming week, where he was invited by President Reagan to attend a December 10 White House ceremony marking Human Rights Day. ("For the last nine years on this day," Sharansky said, "I was on hunger strike. This time I'll be eating in the White House.") Sharansky will try to make clear that Gorbachev is totally hypocritical, as evidenced by this new law. "He must be unmasked."

And Israel must speak out. "As Secretary Shultz once said to Avital, on a quite concrete matter, 'But, you demand from me what even your government does not do. The American government cannot do more than the Israeli government does on this issue.' And that's a good example. There must be a change of policy."

Sharansky will also try to push the idea of a massive march of American Jews if and when Gorbachev travels to the U.S. for a summit, despite the waning interest of establishment leaders. He will never hide his views, to please anyone. "I always say what I think, what will be useful for the struggle... the best way for me to help Soviet Jews is to remain a free lance."

That's exactly what Sharansky has become, a person who acts on his own responsibility, without regard to party lines or deference to authority.

**Emunah**

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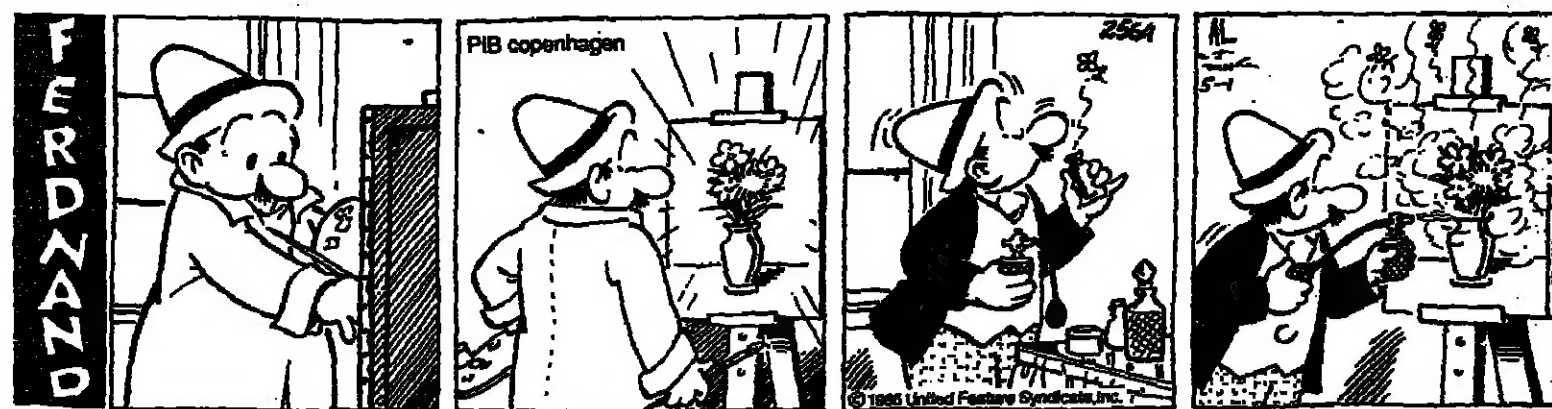
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# FEATURES

## Aliya's new kid on the block

Aryeh Rubinstein

THE ALIYA Demonstration Project, launched a few months ago by the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, can well be called revolutionary. A body that does not bear the label "Zionist" has in effect said that aliya is too important to be left to the World Zionist Organization.

It may be argued that the revolution really occurred in February, 1981 when the "Caesarea Process" was adopted by the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors. Diaspora communities, the resolution said, should assume a greater role in the promotion of aliya and in assisting olim from their communities.

That was undoubtedly a breakthrough, blurring as it did the long-standing division of the Agency into "Zionists" and "non-Zionists." But it could have remained nice phrases on a piece of paper. Los Angeles has added flesh and blood to the resolution with its aliya project, and four other cities in North America are planning to follow suit.

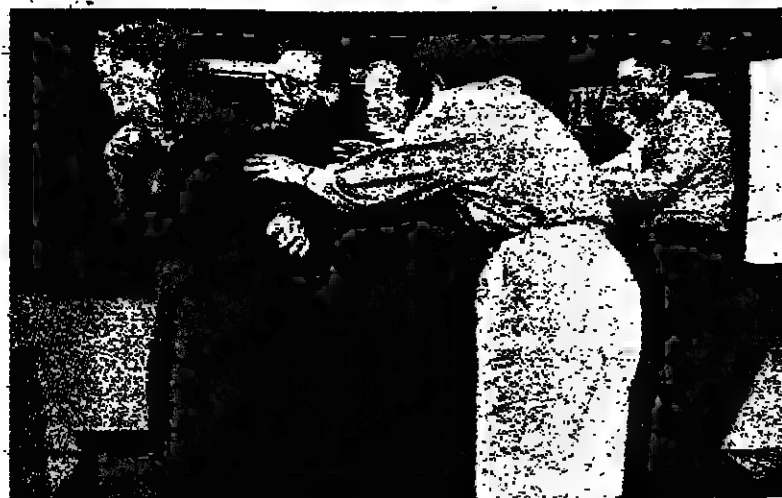
The project, which is costing the Federation Council \$30,000 and the WZO \$60,000, is directed by David Kurz, a former Angeleno who made aliya 12 years ago. Prof. Gerald Bubbis, a Federation Council vice-president, is chairman.

Last month the project took a big step forward when a group of 16 future aliya counsellors were brought here for a two-week familiarization seminar. Almost all of them are social workers or psychologists who work as family counsellors in Jewish institutions in Los Angeles. They responded to the call of the Federation Council to undergo training as counsellors to prospective olim and to do volunteer counselling at least 15 hours a month for at least one year.

Your community needs you, and has a wonderful opportunity for you," said a letter they received in early September. "Preparing for aliya requires an educational and counselling process... Your participation will strengthen Israel and the Jewish people."

ONE OF the seminar sessions I audited dealt with employment opportunities in Israel. Seated around tables in the Jerusalem branch of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI), the group learned that in July there were 72 openings for accountants listed with the Bureau for the Placement of Professionals in the government labour exchange and only 26 job seekers. For chemists it was the other way around: 38 jobs and 63 applicants.

"But good professionals, especially accountants, usually find work," said Michael Ziv, head of the AACI's aliya department.



Counsellors participate in a coping exercise during a seminar on culture shock.

bureau's overseas section. "Naturally, Hebrew is a problem—more so in social work, of course, than in electronics."

The real problem is that few employers will hire anyone without a face-to-face interview, Ziv said. But the prospective olim generally doesn't even have an aliya date when he inquires about jobs, and when he does arrive he will probably have to go to a Hebrew ulpan for a few months.

Ziv also noted that supply and demand in a particular profession can change within a short time (even some of his July figures had since changed direction), and that his figures refer only to jobs listed with the labour exchange; many employers prefer other recruitment channels.

What his unit does is line up interviews with employers who have agreed to meet the prospective olim and then encourage the latter to come on a pilot tour organized and subsidized by the Tour Va'aleh unit in the WZO's Aliya Department.

Lisa Freis, employment counsellor at the AACI national office, described the association's contacts with prospective olim on jobs. When she tried to give some idea of salary levels, there were cries of disbelief: "How can people make ends meet on take-home pay of \$500?"

Ziv later told me that salaries are such a tricky subject that he usually steers clear. "Who knows who's making what? There are all sort of perks which some workers receive and others don't. Even where there are fixed salary schedules, some workers get more. Do you know how much your own colleagues earn?"

"ARE THE SHILIM told all that we are being told?" was one question asked at that discussion. "What is our job in relation to that of the shalih?" was another. In another session, Olga Rachmilevich, director of AACI's aliya department, said:

She complained that the shilim are too casual about sending olim with physical or mental disabilities. "Assess the prospective olim. Should he be coming? Send people, but send them prepared. If there's no institution for this retarded child, he may have to be sent back. Israel is very poor in such institutions—for the blind, the disabled. And they're coming from a country that's very rich in them."

In any case, Rachmilevich pleaded, "give us notice about who's coming, so we'll know what to expect." She said the Jewish Agency has turned down the AACI's request for copies of all aliya applications. "Maybe the situation will improve under the new (New York-based) chief aliya shalih. Up to now, in spite of all the material we send them about our absorption services, not all the shilim even inform the olim of our existence."

THE PREVIOUS chief aliya shalih was Haim Schein, an ordained rabbi and a lawyer by profession. I had heard that he made any number of fiery Zionist speeches during his two-year stint, but his conclusion is that no shalih can persuade anyone to make aliya. "Not even the prime minister can do that. Today, speeches don't work."

He considers the accomplishments of the shilim marginal. "The system is not geared to absorb Western aliya. A person can't sit in New York and get a job in Jerusalem."

Should we stop sending aliya shilim? Schein in effect says yes. The local communities should assume responsibility for aliya, just as they have done with respect to Project Renewal. Instead of raising money and forwarding it to the Jewish Agency, which then uses it to send shilim, let the communities use the funds directly. Maybe even this method won't succeed, but it's the only hope.

The Los Angeles project? "I hope it will succeed, but I'm not sure that the top leadership of the Federation Council really cares about aliya." As for the role of the AACI, Schein thinks it should "stick to absorption in Israel, after the olim arrives, and not try to extend its activities to the U.S."

In response to Rachmilevich's charge of non-cooperation of the shilim with the AACI, Schein says: "The shilim follow the instructions of the Aliya Department." Uri Ya'acov, spokesman for the Aliya Department, expressed surprise at Rachmilevich's criticism. The department's directives call for full cooperation of the shilim with the AACI, he said. All the "short missions" of AACI officials to the U.S. are coordinated with, and funded by, the department. There has never before been such close cooperation. Concerning Rachmilevich's charge that the Jewish Agency refused to make aliya applications available, Ya'acov said that applications contain private information. When the olim arrives the department gives the AACI whatever information it can.

ALMOST ALL the future counsellors in the group have been in Israel before, some of them several times. New to Israel was Dr. Barbara Ingram, associate professor of psychology at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles. She is in Israel on a sabbatical, doing research on the preparation and adjustment of American olim. On the campus, she is surely often mistaken for a student.

The sessions she found most rewarding were the two dealing with

psychological adjustment, and she thinks most of the group felt the same way. She was referring to the workshop with Baruch Shulem, a psychiatric social worker, and the seminar on culture shock with Lucy Shachar.

"Olim don't need just facts about housing, jobs, and the rules about bringing in a car," Ingram said. "They have to be prepared for a different culture. We were given too many dry facts, things we could have been told in California."

"Culture shock can be cushioned. If the olim knows in advance that he can expect an initial period of euphoria which is often followed by a period of depression, the depression when it comes won't be so serious."

The high spots of the fortnight were the two evenings spent in private homes, one in Jerusalem with olim from Los Angeles, the other in Ra'anana with Israelis, Ingram said.

"For one thing, we saw affluence, and that gave us hope. It was the other side of the picture. Before that we had seen absorption centres and the Pigeat Ze'ev housing development in Jerusalem. It had been depressing to learn that an olim can get a \$40,000 mortgage loan on a \$60,000 flat, and then see the tiny rooms and all sorts of defects—for example, the shower drain not properly centred thus causing little pools of water to form.

"And it was good talking to real people for a change." Not government or WZO officials, she meant, and maybe those of the AACI too.

INGRAM DOES not anticipate any conflict with the shilim. The counsellor will deal with the social aspect of aliya, and help the client make the decision, she says. A well-adjusted person functioning at a high level would be referred to the shalih after one meeting with the counsellor. "But if the person is wavering, unsure or has personal problems, we may have several meetings, and may even try to talk him out of aliya."

In essence, she says, the shalih will continue to do all that he's been doing: tell the applicant what he needs to know about army service, housing, duty-free imports, and all the rest. And he will process his application.

She does not see any paradox in having people who themselves have not made aliya advising others. "Ideally, it should not be that way. But it's not our job to persuade anyone to make aliya. In any case, we won't give an unsure applicant short shrift and tell him to come back three months before he plans to leave for Israel."

MARTIN KARP, director of the Israel office of the Los Angeles Federation Council, which was opened two years ago, will not say a bad word of the shilim.

"No shalih, no matter how good he is, can do an optimal job without community support. The local community has something to contribute: case workers who know the community and the psychology of the prospective olim, for instance. There will also be counselling support for the olim's family left behind in Los Angeles."

"Two weeks ago we opened a Hebrew ulpan for prospective olim and the families of existing olim. We are also involving the Federation's lay leadership, two of whom took part in the two-week seminar. But the shalih is still the processor, and the project is not intended to replace him."

The project is more than an attempt to smooth the absorption process. "Yes, it does signify a basic change in attitude towards aliya itself," Karp shows me the official proposal in July 1985 for the launching of the project and points to the preamble.

This says that the Federation "assumes a sense of responsibility for helping Jews view aliya as a significant opportunity for Jewish living in contemporary life and of major importance to the development of Israel."

Karp's tone on the shilim differs from that of Kurz, who has said that the shalih system has proved largely ineffective in the U.S.

But there could be a turn for the better on the horizon. My colleague Charles Hoffman has written that the shalih suffers from lack of access to the local community and his non-accountability to anyone but his department head in Jerusalem.

The Los Angeles project should take care of the access, and it may well get the shalih to understand that he is accountable to the community too.

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4:46 p.m.  
4:19 p.m.

**ENDS**  
5:14 p.m.  
5:15 p.m.  
5:13 p.m.  
5:20 p.m.

### TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV GT. SYNAGOGUE, 110 Allenby St., Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday Services conducted by a guest cantor, Rabbim Shur by Synagogue President Avraham Haim, before Kabbalat Shabbat. Mincha 3:55, Shabbat 6:00.

**JERUSALEM CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY.** YMCA auditorium, 26 King David St., Tel. 232016. Sunday, 7 p.m.

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2. Mount Scopus tours 11 a.m. from the Mount Scopus Reception Centre, Sherman Building, Buses 9, 28, 46, 25 and 23 to the first underground stop. Further details: Tel. 02-882218.

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## ART GUIDE

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### JERUSALEM

#### Museums

**ISRAEL MUSEUM.** Exhibitions: Kotel Hinnom - treasure facing Jerusalem's Wall; "A Man and His Land," Moshe Dagan Collection; 400 years of Japanese Porcelain Tradition; Animals in Ancient Art (Rockefeller); Ancient Glass Jewellery; The Idea in Form, designs for the table (unil 8.12); Three Japanese Designers, graphics and product design; Ben-Zion Emmerich, dress and costume; 19th century drawings; Photography in Nature & Art in Context, audio-visual programme; News in Antiquities; Big and Small, relative sizes in life, art and children's world; Jewels of Children's Literature; Permanent exhibitions of Archaeology, Judaica and Ethnic Art.

**L.A. MAYER MUSEUM FOR ISLAMIC ART.** Visiting hours: Sun-Thurs. 10-1; 3:30-6. Fri. closed. Sat. 10-1. 2 Hapalmach St. Tel. 02-8512912. Bus No. 15.

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**SE ISAAC AND LADY EDITH WOLFSON MUSEUM.** Exhibitions: Moroccan Jewry. Photographs by Roy Mittleman. Permanent Exhibition of Judaica. Diorama Room: History of Jewish People.

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**JERUSALEM MAP HOUSE.** 7 Beit El St., Old City. 288338, 423647. Roberts, Turner, etc.

**SHARON SHARON.** Exhibitions: Fishel Hagit. Exhibits: Jean David - Jerusalem Again. Hours: Sun, Thurs. 5-8, Wed. 10-12. Tues. 10-8. Mon. closed. Tel. 224321.

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#### Museums

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Tel Aviv: Sde Dov, 3 Hausner, Tochnit Lamed, 428510; Rimona 16 Ziman, Nahlat Yitzhak, 257678.

Haifa: Nordau, 13 Nordau, 524113.

Saturday, December 6

Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim, Romema, 523191; Belsam, Salah Eddin, 272315; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058; (evening) Zarfat, Gilo, opp. park, 766943.

Tel Aviv: Ziva, 52 Ezel, Hatikva, 378403; Sde Dov, 3 Hausner, Tochnit Lamed, 428510.

Netanya: Hamagen, 13 Weizmann, 22985.

Haifa: Mazor, 87 Hameginim, 524113.

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Jerusalem Institute for Drug Problems. Tel. 02-58228, 66302, 14 Rehovot.

The National Poison Control Centre at Rambam Hospital, phone (04)529205, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

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**Shops**

**Key money shop + gallery, Rehov Ben Yehuda, Tel Aviv, 05-48439, 05-789333.**

**Shop, 40sq.m., required north Tel Aviv, monthly rent, 05-593399.**

**Bay Yam, for sale, shop, 45sq.m., extra, 98963.**

**Florida, Ramat Hahishon, 450sq.m. + good will for sale, 05-49097, 05-13560.**

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**Opposite Kol-Bo Shalom, healthy, self-sufficient, Mem will take care of introducing you to a good, understanding, kind woman for the golden years. Tel Aviv, 05-719042, 05-719043.**

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**Graduate, 62, attractive, established, seeks suitable partner, 65-67, attach phone number. Tel Aviv, 05-719042, 05-719043.**

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**Attractive, educated, 32, seeks suitable (without). P.O. Box 5198, Ramat Gan.**

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**Marriage is a very important stage in life. We have a lot of information. With Kasher pamphlets you can take the initiative. Order them now: 05-733994, 05-446023. 05-21107 (Sat).**

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**Jewish foreign residents from around the world interested in relocated Israel for marriage. P.O. Box 2476.**

**Single, 33, intelligent, graduate, seeks suitable partner to raise family. P.O. Box 319, Tel Aviv.**

**Tandem, American, 23, religious, established, in religious for marriage. P.O. Box 2511, Tel Aviv.**

**Teacher, 28, bachelor, marriage, seeks suitable partner. P.O. Box 1678, Tel Aviv, for men.**

**Widow, 59/61, seeks suitable partner. P.O. Box 2080, Tel Aviv, for 541.**

**He**

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**Available, educated, artistic, 36/72, seeks suitable partner, clever, single, Madi, 05-283249.**

**Divorced, 37/70, self sufficient, seeks single, attractive. P.O. Box 30, Kiryat Ono.**

**Graduate, 30/63, attractive, sporty, serious, seeks educated, quality, attractive. P.O. Box 3076, Tel Aviv.**

**Graduate, divorced, seeking charming, serious, intelligent, 30, for marriage. P.O. Box 2314, Kiryat Ono.**

**Graduate, 42, seeks serious. P.O. Box 30, Tel Aviv, p.d.v.**

**Widow, 49, for serious, meaningful relationship. P.O. Box 6374, Jerusalem.**

**Bachelor, 39, 39/78, educated, established, good looking, seeks suitable. P.O. Box 54, Ramat.**

**Computer engineer, religious (but not kasher), European, 27, intelligent, interesting, pleasant. Private POB 3066, Ramat Gan.**

**Divorced, 36/68, European, educated, handsome, seeks truly nice, serious, 30-35, for marriage. P.O. Box 7711, Ramat Gan.**

**Divorced, graduate, minor position, good looking, seeks single of 28-35, intelligent, attractive, possibly + 1, for marriage. Hebrew English. P.O. Box 1754, Haifa.**

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**Engineer from Canada, bachelor, 42/71, established, seeking attractive, non-smoker, until 39 for marriage. P.O. Box 5123, Beer Sheva.**

**European, 50/83, young looking, self-employed, established, seeks serious woman, up to 35, for serious purpose. P.O. Box 166, Herzliya (for 100).**

**Nice teacher, 25, very high intelligent, in leg. seeks nice (1). P.O. Box 5042, Herzliya.**

**Nice, single, religious, European, 49, POB 1008, Tel Aviv.**

**Practical engineer, 38/60, seeks European, handsome, 30-35, for marriage. Private POB 3151, Tel Aviv.**

**Private, 38/60, seeks gentle, intelligent, 30-35, for marriage. P.O. Box 8243, Tel Aviv.**

**Religious, 21, seeks religious. 17-30, serious purpose. P.O. Box 6008, Haifa.**

**Senior academic, single, 37/71, intelligent, P.O. Box 2850, Ramat Gan. If you don't like this method: write the danger against the chance.**

**Try!**

**Single, 32/85, European, educated, handsome, seeks suitable, shapely. P.O. Box 3079, Tel Aviv.**

**Widower, retired, 59/71, seeking serious, 30-35, for marriage. P.O. Box 3407, Haifa.**

**Young woman instead of breaking your heart where to meet your future husband, call Meni! 05-719042, 05-719043.**

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**Cinema Empire seeks serious only in Peta Tikva, Givatayim, Bat Yam, Yot Yehuda, Kiryat, Rehov LeZion, Netanya, 05-751063, Hadera, 05-704158, Lod Ramle, 05-224633.**

**Click for Tel Aviv marketing firm, 3 days weekly, English, 05-412529.**

**Flower shop-nursery, Tel Hahishon, requires worker, experience preferred. 34363.**

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**Sale, bargain, plot, Oranit, 600sq.m., 4 plots, 41 (private), 05-331845.**

**Construction company requires plots for cash, combination, Peta Tikva, Bnei Brak, Tel Aviv, 05-622334.**

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**Herdia, plot for 4 cottages, 600sq.m., 4 plots, 41 (private), 05-331845.**

**Kiryat Arziel, 400sq.m. plot, immediate, 05-34136, not Shabbat.**

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A new era is opening on Israel's TV screens with a second channel on the horizon, and now cable broadcasts and satellites.

# PANDORA'S TV BOX?

David Krivine

OUR lives as television viewers are going to be transformed over the next couple of years. The Second Channel Bill passed its initial reading in the Knesset last Monday. If the legislative process is completed by January, we may already have a choice of the following month of two alternative Hebrew-language Israeli TV stations.

Nor is that all. Knesset member Meir Shitrit's bill on cable TV has become law. By next April first tenders should be out for selecting applicants in six or seven districts. (The country will be divided into 30-40 districts, each with its own cable TV system.) If a batch of licensees are appointed by July, households in the favoured areas — those which will be linked up physically by cable first — should be tuning in to a selection of new stations (additional to channels 1 and 2) by Kesh Hashana.

Channel 2 will not collect fees from TV owners, but will earn its living by broadcasting commercials. By contrast cable TV will not be allowed commercials. It must make both ends meet by charging fees.

These developments are likely to take place if all the obstacles are overcome, and obstacles there are. Profound disagreements still prevail over Channel 2: who is to control it, and how it will compete with Channel 1.

Cable TV has its problems as well. Will it be able to pay its way?

Raanan Dinur, general manager of Telad, one of the country's biggest TV studio companies (and an applicant for a concession to telecast on Channel 2), explains that pirate cable stations manage by taking short cuts. They build unsafe installations, "steal" films through using cassettes without paying royalties, and feature trashy programmes.

The legal cable system will have to observe higher standards, technical and artistic. The government creates these new norms in its regulations, while not supplying. Dinur stresses, enough finance to cover the greater outlays.

CHANNEL 2 will hit our screens before cable TV gets under way. It will begin in an attenuated form. The responsible agencies will eventually be a number of private companies, each leasing time from the Second Channel Authority. Until these arrangements are made, the authority will handle the service itself.

An advertising unit is being established within the authority to prepare commercials. The money earned will pay the costs of a (temporary) new channel. The UHF wavelength, now used experimentally every evening, will carry a more ambitious repertoire, yielding to the public a first taste of what may be in store when the big companies come on line.

All will learn something from this phase, including the companies

themselves. How things will work out in the end is not yet known, but here is a likely scenario. Five companies will be chosen, each leasing the screen for one day a week. The two week-end days will require a special arrangement, since no commercials are permitted on the Sabbath. The companies may be required to take over the Friday and Saturday broadcasts in rotation.

The above reorganization should take a couple of years. Investments are required, transmitters and studios have to be built or adapted. Meanwhile the public must be content with the authorities own interim telecast on UHF. An important consolation is that already the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) will be facing competition inside the country, testing its long held monopoly for the first time.

When the system is completed and all the concessionary companies come on screen, some change can be expected; but anyone expecting dramatic innovations is likely to be disappointed. Foreign TV broadcasts are not so different from what we see in Israel today, and the second channel will not outdo the best that is achieved abroad.

THE BIG advantage of the new era will be choice. The present channel devotes time to special interest groups — children, Arabs, religious listeners. Anybody who is not a child or an Arab or inclined to theology is left high and dry. Channel 2 will terminate this deadlock. Most people are likely to find something to their taste, if not on one hand then on the other.

The greater income gained through the use of commercials will permit a more sophisticated service. Better films will be imported from abroad. The biggest outlay, however, will go on making indigenous productions, and not just because the companies want to do that. The government requires that 30 per cent of the output be original, locally-made material.

This sounds like protectionism. If given a free choice the public may prefer *Dallas* or *Dynasty* to local productions like *Bayit Meshulaf* (Condominium). But do we want our young generation to be completely Americanized or Europeanized? Traditionally, each country cherishes its own culture. In the modern world, the culture of the big countries, printed on celluloid, invades the small ones, dominating all screens and thrusting local endeavours aside. This takes place at the lowest level of popular entertainment. All circles seem agreed that a place must be retained in our transmissions for domestic Israeli productions.

FOREIGN diversions will not be lacking once cable TV comes into operation. Each authorized cable has 32 strands, so the recipient can in theory listen to 32 different stations.

In practice the cable TV company will be required under the law to supply for its regular fee at least four stations, of which one must be educational and another devoted to local (municipal) affairs. That leaves two channels for international material, and there could be many more than two. The cost of extra channels is not prohibitive.

The big expense is linking up the customer to the network. Avraham Poraz, adviser to the communications minister on radio and TV, estimates that the one-time charge will be \$200, after which the companies will levy a fee of, say, \$15 per channel per month. (All the figures are guesswork at this early stage.)

According to the Shitrit law, the cable companies will be obliged to put on Israel productions (as on Channel 2), the amount to be fixed by the minister. Whatever his decision, a great majority of the output will be foreign because so many foreign channels are offered.

The biggest source of package entertainment are the satellites. The number that can be tapped locally depends on technical factors including location and the size of the client's receiver-dish. Private persons can buy a dish of their own and pick up programmes direct from satellites, but most people will only be able to afford a small dish providing limited access (one is said to be available in England for as little as \$39).

And that is not all. Some satellite programmes are free — those carrying commercials presumably, or propaganda of some sort. Others cost a fee, and their broadcasts are scrambled to make sure non-subscribers do not get them. Persons who pay the fee (\$28.80 for a Swiss programme on one satellite, £6.50-£9.85 for a Belgian programme) get a decoder, which unscrambles the otherwise incomprehensible gibberish.

All in all, most individuals will find it easier to let the cable TV companies do the receiving, as they can afford a bigger collector. They will channel satellite programmes through their systems, together with films from other sources, direct to the private viewer's home. A single monthly outlay should be enough to get most of what is available — if the cable TV companies do their job properly.

Several satellites are within access, but even if the number which are suitable is limited (two are Soviet satellites broadcasting mainly in Russian), each satellite is itself a relay vehicle with room for several channels called transponders.

Production companies abroad lease a transponder from the owner of the satellite. Entelsat F-1, for example, carries a transmission called Music Box from the UK, supplying pop music 24 hours a day, another called Sky Channel presenting "general entertainment" for 16 hours a day, a French transmission called TV-5, a German one called SAT-1, a Swiss one called Teleclub, a Belgian one called FilmNet, a Dutch one called Europa TV, an Italian one, one from Luxembourg and others. New satellites and new transponders are coming into existence all the time.

THE CABLE companies will not be short of input. There is no reason that two years from now, the fee-paying Israeli cannot have a dozen or more alternative spectacles to choose from, including the two Israeli channels which (the government insists) he will be able to receive via his cable system. This will eliminate the need for unsightly aerials on the roof.

Before clapping our hands, we should remember that satellite broadcasts beamed to Israel are in foreign languages. Sub-titling the films for rebroadcasting would cost a fortune.

In any case, the expense of cable TV may be greater than the government envisages. Pulling up pavements for the installation of cables to every separate household is a costly

business. One source estimates the outlay at something between \$300 per household in Tel Aviv and \$1,000 in Jerusalem. Poraz's figure of \$200 may not be sufficient — unless (as people in the business urge) the cable TV companies are allowed to beam "local" commercials at least, of the kind published in local newspaper supplements like *In Jerusalem* and *Kol Ha'ir*.

The highbrows will be frustrated. Experience shows that what they see as quality programmes does not appeal to the masses, and TV is dominated by the masses. The highbrows are no more than another special interest group and will have an occasional opera or classic drama or intellectual discussion slotted into the Israeli programmes — because the government requires it.

Producer companies intent on profit must attract advertising by featuring programmes which sell, and what sells best is sport, pop music, thrillers and popular comedies. That is the bulk of the stuff bounced off the satellites.

The Israeli producer companies will need all the income they can get because they are going to carry a lot of expenses. The commercials must subsidize everything that does not pay its own way, including Israeli-made shows (because they cost more than the imported variety); news programmes (to be supplied by a special firm) (owned collectively by the producer companies and supervised by the authority); the Friday night programmes, the programmes serving special interest groups; Educational TV (which will have a day to itself each week on Channel 2); and the IBA and the newspapers which (the government has agreed) must be compensated for the loss of their own advertising revenues consequent on the competition of commercial TV.

The five companies selected from among the many applicants for the right to broadcast must nurse great hopes, but contrary to popular belief they may not find themselves sitting on a gold mine.

(This is the first of two articles.)

## U.S. bank failures on the rise

Ken Schachter

TIME WAS when the U.S. banker in his pin-striped suit was a mirror image of the system in which he worked — sound, staid and stolid. Now, the pin-striped banker remains, but the U.S. banking system, if not in tatters, is seriously frayed at the edges.

Buffeted by the 1970s' inflation and the deflation of the 1980s, beset by the incursion of Wall Street and money-market funds into traditional banking functions, bankers are struggling to cope in a new era of keen competition. And in the coming months, Israel could feel the ripples from this sea change.

That was the picture presented by two U.S. banking experts at a Tel Aviv University seminar last week. Though they disagree on how to deal with the situation, there is no question that the banks — and their regulators — are facing a treacherous future.

The U.S. banking system, in my view, is undergoing a massive restructuring," said Prof. Stuart Greenbaum, director of the banking research centre at Northwestern University's school of management.

He and co-panelist Gary Stern, president of the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, listed a variety of reasons for the banks' plight. They included:

The inflation of the 1970s pushed banks away from fixed-rate mortgages and toward variable-rate mortgages, an unpopular move with home buyers.

The information-processing revolution allowed investors to bypass their local banks and invest with money markets in any part of the country.

The government dismantled bar-

riers that prevented mutual funds and credit-card companies from offering many of the same services as banks.

Corporate customers began to borrow directly from Wall Street, instead of through a bank.

Banks, witnessing the change in the market-place, altered their philosophies and installed more aggressive managers who turned to higher-yielding — but riskier — assets.

AS A RESULT of these factors, the roughly 14,000 U.S. commercial banks have witnessed a sudden attrition in their ranks. In past decades, an average of four commercial banks would fail each year, Greenbaum said. In 1985, the number reached 120 and the projected number for 1986 is 150.

"Bank failures are the highest since the 1930s," Stern said. "Most of them are small, but even the largest have had setbacks."

But for Greenbaum and Stern, the question remains: What now? The former advocates continued deregulation. He predicts the government will scale back the insurance it offers to individual depositors in the event of bank failure, perhaps replacing it with a reserve against insured deposits. Of deposit insurance, he says flatly, "You don't need it."

Stern, meanwhile, believes "safety nets" like deposit insurance are a "permanent fixture." He calls for continued regulation of banks, especially the largest ones.

Which policy will prevail remains in doubt, but even these philosophical rivals agree that banks will never return to the days of yore.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR

We wish you success as you assume the position of Prime Minister of Israel.

We assure you that we will do our utmost to help expand business relationships between Israel and the U.S.

As you lead the Israelis from economic stability to economic growth, we urge you to:

- 1) Launch a massive effort in the U.S. to attract American companies to open hi-tech factories in Israel. Israel has much to offer.
- 2) Remove all unnecessary restrictions which inhibit the operation of foreign companies in Israel.
- 3) Make the necessary changes to move Israel in the direction of the free enterprise system. This will encourage American companies to open facilities in Israel.
- 4) Call upon all Jewish nonprofit organizations to add another component to their important work... helping to build the economy of Israel.

We, in CEGI, will not be sitting on Israel's economic sidelines. You can count on us to:

- 1) Interest American companies to open facilities in Israel to take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Israel and the USA.
- 2) Attract American companies to do R&D in Israel — the "in place for innovation".
- 3) Assist Israeli manufacturers to market their products in the U.S. We will open doors for them at the highest level.
- 4) Mobilize American consumers to buy products carrying the label, "Made in Israel".
- 5) Assist Jewish organizations to participate in the economic development of Israel.

We believe that while making contributions to Israel and the purchase of Israeli Bonds are important, we must work to help Israel build her economy to the point where she will become independent of foreign funding.

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH OF ISRAEL

*Elmer L. Winter*  
Elmer L. Winter, Chairman

PS: If you would like a copy of "CEGI's 10th Anniversary Report", write for a free copy:

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## Programmes without frontiers

Richard Brooks / London

FIRST there were the wine lakes and then the butter mountains... next could come the Europuddings, the unflattering name for the programmes made for a European television-watching public, which might take over our screens in the 1990s and beyond. Already soap operas such as the French *Chateauvallon* and the West German *Schwarzwaldklinik* are getting airings outside their own countries.

The European Economic Commission wants different EEC countries to take set quotas of European programmes. Its keenness for Europuddings is matched by a hostility towards American programmes, in particular soaps such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*.

Last year, the commission put out a discussion document called "Television Without Frontiers," which accepted that changes in technology, and in particular satellite television, were breaking down the national broadcasting system.

Traditionally, each European country has relied largely on its own nationally produced television product. In Britain, for example, there is a voluntary quota of 16 per cent maximum for overseas programmes. Also, most countries have until recently relied on just two or three different national channels. This has meant that there has been little room for foreign programmes.

But these barriers are breaking down, partly with the arrival of cable and satellite TV, and partly through deregulation of television.

ITALY deregulated 10 years ago. Almost overnight, 600 local TV stations were set up, financed by advertising and sponsorship. The programmes were, by and large, cheap and poor quality (late night stripping by housewives had been a specialty) and many stations collapsed. Today, however, most large towns still have local stations, and some make money.

The deregulation also allowed some new figures, such as Silvio

Berlusconi, to set up networks rivaling the state run RAI. Berlusconi, who began as a housebuilder, now owns three networks, offering a popular mix of home produced entertainment and some imported soaps.

Other countries, too, are breaking down the old barriers. France has switched from state-backed television to a mix financed by the licence fee, advertising and subscriptions.

There are now about 11 million homes in Western Europe which receive cable television and a few thousand which simply get programmes from satellites off dishes in the backyards.

Despite the criticisms, notably from the state-backed channels, and some of the long-running, national advertising-supported networks, the programmes are popular. Much of Western Europe's national television (Britain excepted) has been so boring and unadventurous that any alternative is welcome.

TWO NEW developments will bring more television to Europe. First, the building of cable networks. West Germany has begun a massive state-funded network which will bring cable TV to most large towns by 1990. Others, such as France and Britain, are building up in a more piecemeal way. Some of the large electronics and telecommunications firms, such as British Telecom, Siemens and CIT-Alcatel, are committing themselves to cable.

The next advance in satellite television is direct broadcast by satellite (DBS). Programmes can be beamed directly to small dish-shaped aerials on rooftops. Four European countries have fairly advanced DBS plans — France, West Germany, Britain and Ireland.

The French plan two services — TDF1 (to start in 1987) and TDF2, the first financed by the government, the second by private finance and industry. Publishers Robert Hersant, Rupert Murdoch and Robert Maxwell have all said they want to put their programmes on TDF1. The British ITV company, TVS, might be keen on TDF2. The West German TV-Sat, due to begin next year,

too, is being sought after by publishers Axel Springer, film producer Leo Kirch and the public broadcaster ZDF and ARD.

The British DBS franchise holder will be announced by the middle of December and will be operating by 1989. Many big names in broadcasting and television (LWT, Granada, electronics (Ferranti, Amstrad) and publishing (News International, Lomho) are bidding.

There is also a privately funded DBS service from Luxembourg, SES, due to begin its service by 1988. It is backed by private capital in five

countries — Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Germany and Denmark.

Some pundits reckon that by the late 1990s, at least half of Western Europe will either receive cable or satellite TV. Cable and satellite owners will be forced to offer more non-national programmes, as will the traditional broadcasters. If there is a likely problem with the expansion of television, it will be lack of programmes. The Europudding pile is not expected to be too late. It will, however, have to be filling.

(Observer Business International Service)

STATE OF NEW YORK  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)



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MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

Smoking gun

The plot thickens at Dabek. Mordechai Barakat, the head of the Treasury's customs division and the man who masterminded the scandal in the first place, had some interesting things to say about the developing scandal. He said he was not at all reluctant about speaking out.

Barakat is plainly fed up to his back teeth with everything about Dabek. When his people blew the whistle on an alleged scheme for taking import receipts designed to channel foreign currency abroad into "Managing Director Zorach Gehl's" Alpine pockets, he notified the police and income tax authorities, who promptly arrested Gehl.

Gehl's ill-health and his imprisonment in a five-star hotel suite were just the beginnings of what looks like being a bizarre affair. Although the customs authorities were not the victims of the alleged scam - income tax and shareholders would have split the extra profit that was smuggled away - they are the ones who have to deal with Dabek on an ongoing basis.

Barakat demanded that the company stop fobbing him off with average prices for the various types of tobacco it imports - ranging from expensive leaves to cheap stalks - and give him precise breakdowns of what everything cost.

Dabek, the state-sanctioned tobacco-products monopoly, found its credibility had worn rather thin with the government - for whom it acts as a collector of the hefty purchase tax levied on its products. When Dabek's delaying tactics in producing the figures demanded were countered by Barakat's refusal to release a new shipment of tobacco, a cigarette shortage was the inevitable result.

Barakat now had to face the wrath of smokers forced to go cold turkey or buy more expensive foreign brands, while management stirred up the work-force to mount demonstrations of support. Under that kind of pressure, Barakat backed down, agreeing to free the weed in return for a promise that the information would be forthcoming.

Most of it was, but not the figures from the two suppliers suspected of being in cahoots with Gehl. According to Barakat, his officers have made three trips abroad to unearth evidence, "and on none of them did they return empty-handed," he said.

Barakat, not referring to duty-free perfumes and whiskey that they may have brought in with them.

Meanwhile, back at the docks, another shipment arrived, and now Barakat is playing tough again, since the company - now minus Gehl, who's in jail - has still not provided the facts he wants. This has got him not only riled, but puzzled as well.

"I am amazed at the ongoing silence on the part of some members of Dabek's board. They are shareholders, and they were robbed by the scam along with all the other shareholders - unless they were party to what is going on. That would mean, of course, that Gehl, who had sole control of overseas purchasing, was not acting on his own, as had been thought." You can't get much more direct than that, Barakat added, that he had spoken privately to some of his directors, but also indicated that things could go much further.

Smokers may be relieved at his remark to the effect that the possibility of bringing in more imports, and/or allowing another manufacturer to open shop, are under consideration again.

But beyond the specific case of cigarettes, the issues raised are really those of government-approved monopolies - and nobody can suggest a strategic or other national-interest rationale for tobacco to be a monopoly - and the role and responsibility of directors.

Barakat's report on how the scam was revealed is itself revealing. As part of a new programme, trainee inspectors went to six companies whose operations are computerized, and started poking around. Three were clean and one, Elite, was found to have failed to charge for, collect and pass on, part of the tax on some products. This, however, proved to be an honest blunder, admitted and regretted by Elite management, and paid for as a civil case. Barakat was at pains to stress that no planned illegalities had been taking place.

The other two cases, of which one was Dabek and the other Masan, involved suspected tax evasion of a criminal nature. Given a 33 per cent crime rate among his sample cases, Barakat decided to institutionalize the investigation method that had uncovered them. They also taught him that no entity, however outwardly solid and respectable, could be left unchecked, as a "taxi reserve," in his words. In short, the fun has only just begun.

Staff offers to invest in Beit Shemesh plant

Post Economic Staff  
Workers at Beit Shemesh Engines yesterday told Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Economic Affairs Minister Gad Ya'acobi that they wanted to become partners in the financially troubled concern and would seek to raise the money needed to do so.

Peres and Ya'acobi, who are part of a four-man ministerial panel charged with devising a plan for the ailing company, were touring the plant yesterday when they met workers' representatives.

The workers' representatives said they had not come up with a specific plan for investing in the company, but said they had reached a decision in principle to do so after consultations with Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar.

"We don't know the technical details yet, but I believe that through discussions with experts we could raise the necessary funds, and we hope the sum won't be high," said workers' committee member Moshe Levy.

Peres told the workers that the ministerial committee, which also includes Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens, would need another two to three weeks to make a decision on the company's future.

Although Nissim has said the government should not rule out the possibility of naming a receiver for the plant, which has an estimated \$60 million in debts, the government's first choice is to find a buyer, preferably a private company.

Both the state-owned Ta'as Military Industries and privately owned Ornat Turbines Ltd. have made inquiries, it was learned yesterday.

In addition, industrialist Stef Wertheimer has offered to assume management of the company and nurse it back to health.

On Wednesday, the American engine maker Pratt and Whitney, which holds a 40 per cent stake in Beit Shemesh, said if the government did not find a private buyer for the company within a month, it would sever its ties.

BUSINESS BRIEFS  
Average wage up 19% from '85

The average monthly salary of wage earners for July-September was 19 per cent higher than during the same period last year, according to figures released by the National Insurance Institute this week.

Gross monthly salary payments during the quarter in Israel and the territories averaged NIS 1,110 in constant prices (that is, relative to the consumer price index in the same month).

The figure represents a 0.5 per cent increase over the previous quarter. The variations are affected by seasonal factors, such as changes in salary policy and one-time payments.

Monthly salaries rose by an average of 3 per cent during the first 9 months of this year. The increase affected all sectors of the economy with the exception of civil servants, whose pay fell by 1 per cent, and of electricity workers, whose pay was 10 per cent lower.

Salaries rose 5 per cent in agriculture, retailing and transportation, 8 per cent in construction and financial services, 3 per cent in industry, and 10 per cent in personal services.

IMPORTED DELICACIES, such as caviar, smoked meat and fish preserves are being imported into Israel illegally and often sold at exorbitant prices, according to a Ministry of Industry and Trade investigation.

In the past few days, ministry inspectors have been examining imported delicacies sold at 35 delicatessens for ingredient listings and importer identification. The inspectors found that most were imported illegally and lacked the required permits.

The ministry said it plans to file charges against the shop owners and give its findings to the Health Ministry. Complaints were filed against eight business owners who raised their prices without permits for new products, it was learned.

JERUSALEM HOTEL OWNERS have been summoned to an emergency meeting on Sunday by Jerusalem Hotel Association chairman Yehuda Greenbaum, who warns that if the decline in tourism does not abate, several major hotels in the capital may go under.

Greenbaum said this week that he wanted Jerusalem to be declared an area of distress, which would qualify it for government aid. Part of the fall-off in tourism he said could be attributed to inadequate promotion.

At the emergency meeting, Greenbaum said he would propose a million-dollar campaign throughout Europe to encourage tourism to Israel. The government would be asked to fund part of the campaign.

MOST SHOE PRICES this year are either 10 to 20 per cent higher than last winter or have remained the same, according to Industry and Trade Ministry findings in shoe shops and plants in the central region these days.

The inspectors looked at 220 shoe shops and plants in the central region, to see whether any prices had been hiked in violation of the price freeze.

According to the law, every new product being sold must have a permit for its price from the Industry and Trade Ministry's price supervisor. The inspectors reported that the large manufacturers had permits but a number of small ones did not.

Now, no tomato imports

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
The government did yet another about-face on tomato imports last night, as the Agriculture Ministry announced it was postponing its plans to import 100 tons of the fruit from Spain, Israel Radio reported.

The ministry said it took the decision - its third change of mind since the issue ripened at the end of last month - because locally grown supplies were now becoming adequate and the price could be expected to fall.

In addition, the red-faced ministry said this was the end of the tomato season in Europe and that the only Spanish and Portuguese tomatoes available were very small, and unsuitable for Israel's needs.

Earlier today both Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and the Knesset Finance Committee had sharply criticized the import plan. Sharon called on the government to reverse its decision.

Sharon said the local crop would be sufficient.

FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
SHEKEL INTEREST RATES				
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.58% per month				
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)				
	Last Updated	Tapes	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	4.12	7-15.75%	8-16.00%	8-18.50%
HAPOLIM	20.11	10-16.50%	11-17.50%	13-18.00%
DISCOUNT	19.11	10-16.00%	10-16.50%	14-20%
MIZRAHI	1.12	8-17%	6-17.50%	6-19.50%
FIRST INT'L	11.11	10-16%	11-17.20%	13-19.50%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAM - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (December 4)				
	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.375	5.375	5.375	5.375
STG (10,000 pounds)	9.875	10.000	9.875	9.875
DMK (100,000 marks)	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
SFR (50,000 francs)	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	3.000	2.875	2.875	2.875

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (December 4)				
	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	Banknotes	Rep. Rates	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	1.4560	1.5050	—	1.4939
U.S.A. Dollar	1.4758	1.4942	1.44	1.4835
Deutschmark	0.7483	0.7555	0.73	0.7504
Swiss Franc	2.1097	2.1360	2.05	2.1238
French Franc	0.2277	0.2306	0.22	0.2290
Japanese Yen	0.0093	0.0206	0.89	0.92
Dutch Florin	0.0600	0.0682	0.64	0.67
Swiss Franc	0.8852	0.9054	0.87	0.91
Swedish Krona	0.2148	0.2173	0.21	0.22
Norwegian Krone	0.1371	0.1388	0.13	0.14
Danish Krone	0.1879	0.2004	0.19	0.20
Finnish Mark	0.3023	0.3061	0.30	0.31
Canadian Dollar	1.0679	1.0812	1.04	1.09
Australian Dollar	0.9552	0.9772	0.91	1.00
S. African Rand	0.6886	0.6763	0.63	0.62
Belgian Franc	0.3558	0.3609	0.35	0.36
Austrian Shilling	10.1058	1.0730	1.03	1.08
Italian Lira	1000	1.0757	1.081	1.10
Jordanian Dinar	1	—	4.05	4.30
Egyptian Pound	1	—	0.73	0.78
ECU	1	1.5511	1.5704	—

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

NIR

(Continued from Page One)  
lent and an ability to listen to a discussion and quickly extract the essence.

He was also discreet and shunned the press - it was well known in journalistic circles that Nir was about the last person to go to for information - and thus slowly gained the trust of his colleagues. His ability to report precisely and accurately, as well as his independence of thought, won him acceptance and even some praise at the cabinet table, where most Likud members still remained adamantly opposed to his appointment.

As international cooperation on terror increased in recent years, especially following President Reagan's stand, Nir found himself becoming Israel's envoy on diplomatic missions the government wanted kept in the shadows. His selection to work with Oliver North on the Iranian arms deal was logical. Nir was the government's top official on the anti-terror front and coordinator of all terror-related policy, which would have put him in close contact

with the Reagan administration and the National Security Council, where North worked.

Those who know Nir well and have spoken to him about the current affair are convinced that he did not know about the Contras connection in the arms deal. "Either that, or he is one of the world's most convincing liars," one person who has spoken with him remarked. Whatever the case, Nir is now having a difficult time readjusting to the limelight.

Nir has known for some time that one of the first items on the Likud's post-rotation agenda was to replace him with "one of their own." Given the sensitivity now concerning Nir's future, the publicity over the Iranian arms deal may ironically have saved his job. As one observer noted: "He is about the last person in Israel who can be fired right now."

THE INVESTMENT CENTRE of the Ministry of Industry and Trade approved 167 proposals to establish or expand industrial plants around the country in the first 10 months of the year. In all of 1985, 169 projects were approved.

However, the total investment in the projects came to an estimated \$476 million, down 9.1 per cent from \$524 m. in all of last year, and Yoram Belisovsky, acting director of the ministry, said. He estimated the approved projects would create 6,100 jobs and result in exports of \$725 m. a year.

Of the 167 projects, 60 per cent were in development zone A, 26 per cent in zone B areas and the remainder in the centre of the country. Of the total, 39 projects were in the electrical and electronics sector.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

STATISTICS MARKET

Indices:		
General Share Index	123.72	-0.02%
Non-Bank Index	103.78	-0.89%
Arrangement	107.02	+0.59%
Insurance	181.99	-0.82%
Commerce, Services	198.96	-1.77%
Real Estate	202.09	-0.66%
Industries	146.70	-1.01%
Textiles	207.64	+0.69%
Metals	158.35	-1.32%
Electronics	102.66	-0.95%
Chemicals	136.88	-0.74%
Industrial Invest.	142.13	-1.54%
Investment Cos.	160.23	-0.54%
General Bond Index	114.68	+0.13%
Index-linked Bonds	116.30	+0.12%
Fully-linked	117.32	+0.19%
Partially-linked	115.54	+0.04%
Dollar-linked Bonds	89.84	+0.17%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	111.97	-0.06%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	113.57	+0.07%
Long-term 5+ yrs	107.98	+0.31%

Turnovers:		
Shares - total	NIS 9,408,100	
Arrangement	NIS 2,289,600	
Non-Bank	NIS 7,109,500	
Bonds - total	NIS 6,758,800	
Index-linked	NIS 4,131,100	
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,627,700	
Treasury Bills	NIS 1,000,000	

Share Movements:		
Advances	87	(74)
of which 5%+	7	(14)
"buyers only"	2	(1)
Declines	168	(198)
of which 5%+	22	(36)
"sellers only"	125	(124)
Unchanged	39	(35)

Bond Market Trends:		
Index-linked:		
3% fully-linked	Mixed	to 1%

4.25% fully-linked	Mixed to 1%
8% linked	Generally stable
Double-linked:	Rises to 1%
Dollar-linked:	
Admon	Mixed to 1%
Rimor	Falls slightly/rises to 1.5%
Gilboa	Generally rises to 1%
For. Curr.	
denominated	Generally falls to 3%
Treasury bills	
(annual yield)	20.20%-21.50%

Arrangement yields:		
IDB ord.	15.94%	
Unit 0.1	15.32%	
Discount A	15.54%	
Mizrahi A	15.39%	
Hapoalim r.	15.52%	
Mizrani A	15.45%	
Leumi stock	15.45%	
Fin. Trade 1	15.40%	

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	% change
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
Meritima	1158	52	-2.0
General non-arr.	2210	68	-3.0
First Int'l	3480	1195	-
FBI	4460	1785	-0.8
Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement")			
DB	81850	585	+0.7
Union 0.1	80900	73	-
Discount	104100	170	+0.7
Mizrani	33640	710	+0.9
Hapoalim r.	95420	684	+0.4
General A	141700	33	+1.1
Leumi 0.1	35201	1815	+0.5
Fin. Trade	46800	-	-
Mortgage Banks			
Leumi Mort. r.	7000	432	-1.4
Dev. Mort.	2250	600	-1.7
Mishkan r.	2880	692	-
Tefahot r.	16800	50	-
Merav r.	8270	582	-
Financial Institutions			
Agrie Co.	no trading		
Ind. Dev. DO	no trading		
Clal Leasing 0.1	19800	23	-0.5
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r.	1442	720	+1.4
Hessner r.	330	27488	-
Phoenix 0.1	735	6674	-
Hemshahar	7000	248	-6.2
Menorah 1	5900	35	-
Sahar r.	8730	6	+1.2
Shin Hold. 1	5730	6	+1.2

Trade & Services			
Meir Ezra	1270	509	-
Supersol 2	7260	835	-1.2
Delek r.	3325	2752	-1.9
Lightage	14100	31	-4.1
Cold Storage	1900	374	-5.0
Dan Hotels	1640	199	-1.8
Yarden Hotel	2780	54	-4.8
Hilon 1	22681	257	+1.0
Team 1	2000	2267	-
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorim	824	5183	-1.9
Elion	567	8133	-0.5
Africa Int. 0.1	37880	110	-0.5
Danline	4458	350	+0.5
Prop. & Bldg.	3210	2948	-1.8
Bayside 0.1	4405	152	-2.2
ILDC r.	80500	114	-0.8
Rasco r.	7130	123	-6.1
Mohadrin	2049	105	-
Hadarim	1351	4031	-1.4
Industrials			
Dabek b.	3950	1635	+1.2
Pr-Zet 1	no trading		
Sunifrost	11830	118	-1.8
Elite	18200	219	+0.9
Adiger	533	5963	-2.2
Argaman r.	16590	65	-2.9
Delta G 1	2590	1606	-1.5
Maquetta 1	5340	480	+2.3
Eagle 1	13480	10	-1.1
Schellierma	3747	367	-0.7
Rogovin	14895	40	-0.0
Rogovin	2850	729	-1.7
Urdan 0.1 r.	7580	216	-2.8
Is. Can. Co. 1	2520	1014	-1.2
Zion Carabin	no trading		
Packer Steel	14095	462	+2.9
Elbit	389000	16	-0.8

Elron	308000	7	-1.0
Art	32350	69	-
Clal Electronics	2080	1494	-0.7
Spectronix 1	2050	821	-
T.A.T. 1	4188	360	-10.0
Ackerstein 1	844	1578	-0.7
Argan 5	17000	36	-1.2
Alliance	2370	81	-2.1
Dexter	3250	335	-1.8
Fertilisers	5100	62	-
Haifa Chem.	4710	11425	-1.2
Teve r.	8130	1058	-0.2
Dead Sea r.	4540	1520	-0.2
Petrochem.	567	24352	-3.4
Neca Chem.	7275	750	-10.0
Frutaron	14050	38	+1.8
Hadesa Paper	255000	35	-0.6
Central Trade	8170	289	-3.4
Koor p.	6630000	0	-2.1
Clal Inds.	1545	12019	-
<b>Investment Companies</b>			
IDB Dev. r.	5050	2465	-1.0
Elion	3360	509	-
Art 1	245	2355	+2.1
Gahelot	1560	200	+4.0
Israel Corp. 1	980	654	-
Wolfson T r.	114000	0	+4.7
Hapoalim Inv.	6367	2522	-4.8
Leumi Invest.	no trading		
Discount Invest.	2930	3020	-0.4
Mizrani Invest.	22222	104	-0.4
Clal 10	6239	6798	-0.6
Lendeco 0.1	4300	100	+1.2
Pama 0.1	11552	181	+3.0
<b>Oil Exploration</b>			
Paz Oil Expl.	18500	89	-
J.O.E.L.	3600	1365	-2.7

Abbreviations:  
s.o., **seniors only**  
b.o., **buyers only**

b **bearer**  
r **registered**

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## A paternalism we don't need

FOR TURNING artistic dress into commercial gold, there is probably nothing in this country like the Film and Theatre Censorship board. This august institution may have worked its alchemy again with Shmuel Hasafri's *The Last Secular Jew*, a futuristic political satire produced by the Cameri Theatre, which the board this week declared unsuitable for public showing.

Although the playwright garnered critical acclaim for some of his earlier dramaturgical efforts, his new play would not. Had it opened on schedule, it would most likely have sunk with nary a trace in the national consciousness. Now, if the censorship board changes its mind about *The Last Secular Jew* on appeal, or if the High Court forces it to reverse its decision even without changing its mind, the play will almost certainly be assured a long run simply because of the notoriety granted it.

The moral is excruciatingly plain. The board, a legacy from British times, has become a sorry anachronism, and should be disbanded - at least insofar as its duties concern the theatre. It is not that the censors are all illiberal prigs who enjoy nothing better than ripping an out-of-line play to pieces and, if possible, doing it in. Not at all. The trouble is that the business of the censorship board is to censor, so that even its more enlightened members, who doubt the need for any censorship of plays, before long acquire the habit. This after all is what they are expected to do.

The philosophy underlying the board's work, though never clearly spelled out, seems to be that Israeli theatre-goers are benighted innocents who need to be protected by their moral guardians from the evil winds that might otherwise blow from the stages. The theatre, it is evidently reasoned, is much too socially powerful, and therefore much too dangerous, a vehicle of ideas to allow the choice of its plays and their content to be left to theatre managers and ultimately to the theatre-going public.

The regrettably steady decline of the theatre in the ranking order of "socially significant" arts has escaped the censorship board. Other media have become more powerful. Yet what is acceptable not only in books and movies and even on television is still not tolerated in stage plays.

What the board found so intolerable about *The Last Secular Jew* was its supposed crude attack on Judaism. This, the board felt, would be offensive to the religious and could be interpreted as calculated to stir up hatred against them.

If this were true, Mr. Hasafri and the Cameri could be charged for violating the relevant provisions of the Penal Law. But the argument is manifestly false. Mr. Hasafri is an observant Jew himself, and his purpose was quite obviously to attack not Judaism but the Orthodox establishment, the avowed aim of which is to convert Israel into a state of halacha where no secular Jew would have a place.

The same theme has lately engaged the alarmed contemplation of more than one Israeli writer. In his play Mr. Hasafri treats a path already beaten by Amos Keinan in *The Road to Ein Hared* and by Binjamin Tamuz in *Jerusalem's Inn*, both futuristic novels about an Israel wholly in the grip of Orthodoxy.

There is no logical reason to prevent what has been said in novels to be said, and enacted, in theatre plays as well. The censorial authority that has never been granted to the board in regard to books should now be denied to it in respect of the theatre. The threat that the censorship board poses to the liberties of free Israelis can only be removed the way the British handled their problem of theatre censorship: through abolition.

## TWO KILLED

(Continued from Page One)

were brought in clashed with students who had arrived to visit the wounded and give blood. One student at the site said that students and troops exchanged blows, and that the soldiers opened fire, wounding two students. Military sources said one student had been injured by rubber bullets.

Bir Zeit faculty and students maintained yesterday that troops at the university had fired directly at the students. "The army shot at anyone they saw," said one student, who had been wounded in the leg.

OC Central Command last night expressed regret over the killings, but maintained that the soldiers had acted in self-defense and fired only at attacking the students to disperse them.

Prime Minister Shamir last night expressed his regret over the deaths, but blamed extremists for "inflaming the situation." Some 60 Jewish and Arab demonstrators gathered last night at Shamir's home to protest against Israeli policy in the territories.

The Bir Zeit killings drew sharp reactions at the Knesset, where Mapam, the Citizens Rights Movement and the Progressive List for Peace tabled motions for the agenda. The CRM demanded that Defence Minister Rabin report on the incidents to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

MK Uzi Landau (Likud) also tabled a motion for the agenda, and said Bir Zeit should be closed permanently. The Peace Now movement demanded that a commission of inquiry be set up to investigate the killings.

## POSTSCRIPTS

**INDIAN** Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi nearly got a speeding ticket recently as he was driving his bulletproof green Mercedes, a recent gift from the king of Jordan. Indian newspapers report.

The *Indian Express* and *Sunday Mail* said the incident was the latest in a series of harrowing experiences for the security detail of the 42-year-old prime minister, an ex-airline pilot.

Sometimes he leaves them in the dust as he drives his jeep or Mercedes. Guards recently were distressed when the New Delhi Airport was shut down to allow the prime minister to fly a light plane, so that his pilot's licence would not lapse for lack of flying hours.

The *Indian Express*, in a page-one article, said that Gandhi was speeding in his Mercedes 500 on the way to the airport. He was flagged down and harangued by a policeman who beat his fists on the hood of the car, the newspaper said.

The officer apparently did not know the scowling was the Indian

prime minister. The newspaper said that Gandhi had left his motorcade of security cars and an ambulance far behind and they lost sight of him.

The policeman ordered Gandhi to slow down, not to block the prime minister's route and to turn around and take another route.

Gandhi laughed goodnaturedly, and did so. **P.S.** A FAT black cat named Trixie is alive today thanks to her excess flab, after an unintended 22-day starvation diet in a trunk, her owner says.

The nine-year-old feline disappeared recently from her home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, said owner Leslee Elzo. Elzo heard meowing around her house, but a search revealed nothing.

Twenty-two days later, when Elzo opened a trunk to get a sweater, she also found Trixie - weak and emaciated but alive after being accidentally shut in the trunk with no food or water. A veterinarian told Elzo that Trixie survived because she was a fat cat.

# Iran scandal - only happens in America

Yosef Goell

THERE IS reason to believe that had there been television and a post-Watergate press in the U.S. in 1940, President Roosevelt might have been impeached for doing everything in his power to drag the U.S. into war with Germany against the express wishes of an isolationist Congress, and public opinion.

It is often totally impossible for non-Americans to fathom why various issues develop into full-blown political scandals in the U.S. The present Iranian arms scandal is a case in point.

Last week, *The Jerusalem Post* carried a detailed article from a British source enumerating the arms sold over the past six years, and continuing to be sold today, to the Iranians - and to the Iraqis - by nearly all the European democracies. Why should supplying arms to the Ayatollah's Iran be a matter of business as usual in Europe, accompanied by a minimal public outcry, whereas in the U.S. it should be blown up into a major scandal, which has even succeeded for the first time in six years in eroding President Reagan's popularity?

The answer would seem to lie in the nearly unique combination of populist politics, a systemic fixation on legalism and an especially aggressive media, that has been so characteristic of the modern American scene. It is that combination which makes the conduct of American foreign policy in a complex and frustratingly contradictory world, so difficult. The U.S. would seem to be one of the few democracies that permits media-manipulated public opinion to influence the making and conduct of its foreign policy.

One could of course argue that from a democratic point of view that is as it should be. If the people are sovereign, and elected officials are there to carry out the will of the people, the same people should be the ones to determine what should or should not be done in their name by their country in the conduct of its foreign relations.

It's when one translates this admirable theory into practice that the trouble begins. The Hearst newspapers, which were so successful in creating a jingoistic public opinion, nearly single-handedly got the U.S. into the war with Spain in 1898. A

predominantly isolationist press and public opinion are what prevented President Roosevelt from taking steps that could possibly have prevented the outbreak of World War II. The people are sovereign; but the people do not always know best what is best for them. Especially not in complex areas such as foreign policy.

Why has the Iran arms affair become a political scandal in the U.S.? Largely, because it was not totally successful. Had the Reagan administration succeeded in freeing all the American hostages held by Shi'ite fundamentalists theoretically responsive to pressures from Khomeini's regime, there would most likely not have been a scandal. Even the possibility that the Reagan administration might have violated a law in the process, could have been forgiven and forgotten.

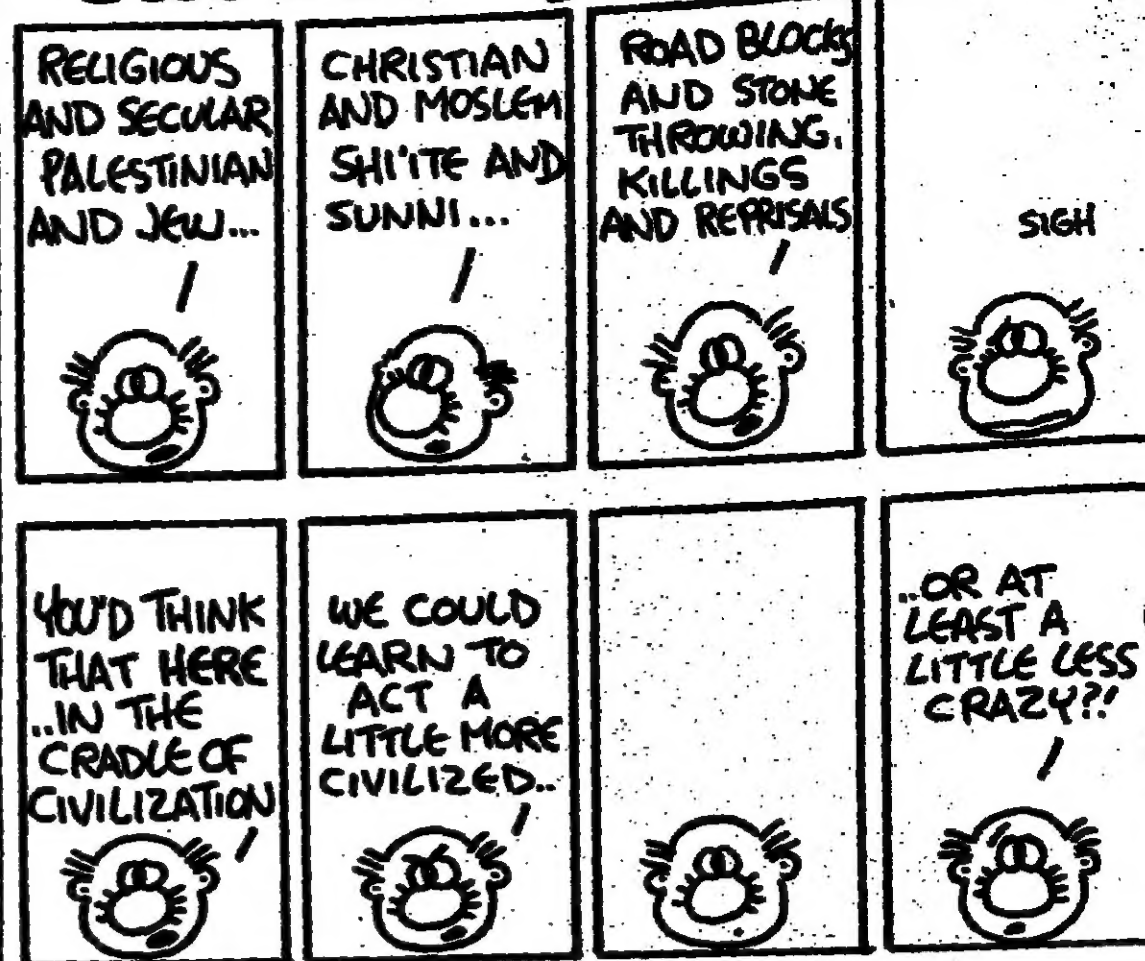
But the Americans did not succeed in winning an Iranian quid pro quo for the arms shipments dispatched to win the release of the hostages. In the context of failure, the possibility that the president and his men may have violated the law, did turn into a major scandal. But what, one may ask, does foreign policy have to do with law?

ASKING that question brings us back to the peculiarities of the American system. The president is not entirely independent in carrying out foreign policy. On many issues he is dependent on the "advice and consent" of a majority of the Senate. On other issues he is dependent on a majority of the Congress to approve funds that are expended in the conduct of foreign policy.

In the case of the Congressional decision against providing aid to the Nicaraguan Contras, there is a good argument to be made for such a sharing of power between the executive and legislative arms of government. The American people, and their representatives, having been burned by the duplicity of the men of the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations in Vietnam, are understandably wary of being again sucked into another such war - this time in Central America.

Unless persuaded by an administration that the U.S. is indeed threatened by the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, the people, and their representatives, have every right to prevent their leaders from dragging them into another morass. And an administration has the right to keep on trying to change the public's opin-

## The Friday Dry Bones



ion, and that of Congress, in the matter. But to date, it has failed in those attempts. Insisting on supplying arms to the Contras, in the light of its failure to change public opinion, may indeed be an impeachable offense, or at least one that can be expected to result in the wholesale sackings of the officials responsible, in order to preserve the prestige of the president himself.

But the case of the sale of arms to Iran should be seen in a different context. There is a law there, too, forbidding arms sales to Iran. That law, however, was adopted in the super-heated atmosphere of the 1980 Iranian hostage crisis, in which the Khomeini regime was busy rubbing America's nose, and collective ego, in the dirt. But was that a good enough reason for a superpower to agree to tie its hands and to deny itself the flexibility that is so necessary to the conduct of its affairs in this region?

I would argue that it is not; that where the American system shows its weakness, is in the exaggerated application of the democratic principles of government and of its penchant for legislating on everything, to areas where such tendencies become self-defeating. I do not know whether or not the U.S. should have agreed to sell arms to the Khomeini regime in Iran in exchange for its using its influence to free American hostages. But I do know that any

government of a superpower like the U.S. should have its options untrammelled by legislation in regard to such questions.

WHAT, THEN is the Iranian arms crisis in Israel all about? The answer is that there is no crisis in Israel, and there should be none; that this may well be simply another example of an attempt to manufacture a crisis by the media. According to all the indications, the Israeli political triumvirate - Peres, Shamir and Rabin - who were in charge of Israel's involvement in the American gambit, took their decisions rationally, and circumspectly. There were good arguments both for engaging in the sale of arms to Iran, in pursuit of specific Israeli interests, and against such sales.

Should that decision have been taken by a larger body, as some today argue? Which body, for example? Would the addition of Anik Sharon, Ezer Weizman, Yitzhak Navon and Moshe Shahal, have added any basic wisdom to that of the three sitting and ex-prime ministers who did take the decisions, and keep them to themselves? Highly doubtful.

Should Israel go the way of the U.S. and have its top ministers report on all such matters to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee? Heaven forbid.

Is there room to establish a small sub-committee of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee for overseeing such government operations? It would depend on the Knesset members chosen for such a sensitive and secret task. In the case of intelligence operations, in which there has been recent evidence of serious failures, errors of judgment, and administrative lapses on the part of the top political leadership - in the Pollard, Shin Bet and possibly the Vassan cases - it might very well be a good idea.

In the Iran arms affair there has been no such evidence. If allegations from some partisan American sources of Israeli involvement in administration attempts to go behind the back of Congress on the Contras issue prove true, there would certainly be room for a bipartisan move to remove our troops, in punishment for such a monumental error in judgment.

But so far there has been absolutely no evidence that this was the case. Unless such hard evidence does turn up, beyond the attempts of a number of frightened American officials to save their own skins by besmirching Israel, our leaders deserve the benefit of the doubt. More than that, they deserve the confidence of the media and of the public.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

## READERS' LETTERS

### WOMEN AND HALACHA

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - Rabbi Goren's attempt (November 21) to defend the record of Halacha on the status of women is an exercise in futility. He may persuade himself that the relevant comparison is that between the status of women in 11th century Egypt and 11th century France.

To the majority of us, however, this is history, not a useful standard for judging contemporary moral and social norms. One might as well attempt to address the question of 20th century European workers by referring the reader to the distinctions between medieval European serfdom and slavery under Islam.

It is pathetic that Rabbi Goren champions the legislation of Rabbeinu Gershom as "proof" of the enlightened approach of Halacha to women's status. Has nothing happened in the intervening centuries to warrant similar civic and moral courage among Rabbi Goren's colleagues?

### SPIES AND SPY-MASTERS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I read with a sense of disbelief, dismay and then outrage your front page article of November 14, relating how Rafi Eitan had ensnared, entrapped and prostituted a young, naive idealist to become a paid spy for Israel. Jonathan Jay Pollard, for love of Israel, has been disgraced; he has a long jail sentence awaiting him and is financially destroyed as a result of his legal fees.

Eitan not only gets away scot free but in addition, he is rewarded by being appointed to head Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned firm in the country.

The least Israel should do is to meet the financial obligations imposed upon Pollard and his wife.

SARA E. V. LIZT  
Jerusalem (Brooklyn).

### COMMUNITY PLANNING

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - With reference to Edna Fainaru's cinema article of November 21, I wish to take exception to the following sentence: "... the Dutch, the one people whose war record seemed impeccable..." The Dutch war record is far from "impeccable." Nearly 76 per cent of Dutch Jewry (106,000 out of 140,000) were delivered to the Nazis. This is one of the worst war records in Europe.

No wonder today's Dutch suffer from a massive guilt-complex.

MARGE E. LANDSBERG  
Haifa.

### DUTCH WAR RECORD

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No wonder today's Dutch suffer from a massive guilt-complex.

MARGE E. LANDSBERG  
Haifa.

### ACCOMMODATION AT MITZPE RAMON

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I greatly enjoyed your series of articles on the Negev (November 14), but I do not understand why Haim Shapiro closes his article, "Wilderness is paradise now," with such an ironical note about accommodation.

Apart from the camping site - which is not in the Ramon Crater, but at Borot Lutz (Lutz's Waterholes) - there exist three possibilities for tourists to lodge at Mitzpe Ramon.

One is the youth hostel. Another is the field school of the Society for

### SHARANSKY AND UDI ADIV

I harbour a "great admiration" for Adiv is a complete travesty. It is absolutely true; however, that my great admiration for some Soviet Jews is often clouded by doubts and misgivings. I find it intolerable that they tend to interpret their sufferings in a narrow, jingoistic, anti-universalist fashion. Sharansky's cowardly retreat after his seemingly encouraging meeting with Palestinian intellectuals is just another recent example of the appalling record of many Russian olim as far as the plight of the Arabs under Israeli occupation is concerned.

HAIM BARAM  
Jerusalem.

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